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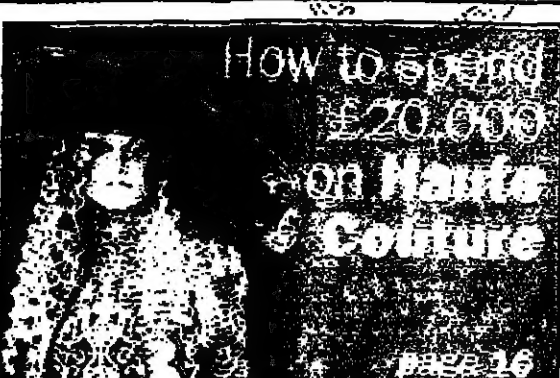
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England stands up to the test
page 25
COVES
16 PAGE
SUPPLEMENT



Blair to sack ten ministers in major reshuffle

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR will today appoint Peter Mandelson, his close friend and confidant, to the Cabinet and challenge him to show that he can be a mainstream politician by running a leading Whitehall department.

The Minister without Portfolio will finally emerge from the shadows after lengthy spells in Opposition and government as backroom strategist, media adviser and spin-doctor.

Between eight and ten ministers at all levels of the Government will be sacked today to make way for new blood in Mr Blair's first reshuffle since his election victory last year.

Two of three Cabinet ministers will go. Mr Mandelson will replace one of them and *The Times* learnt last night that John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, is set for a significant promotion, possibly even into the Cabinet.

Other leading modernisers considered for promotion are Stephen Byers, the Education Minister, and Tessa Jowell and Alan Milburn, both Health Ministers. Helen Liddell, the Treasury economic secretary, will also move upwards, although not into the Cabinet.

The shake-up will be marked by the elevation of Jack Cunningham, a veteran of the last Labour government in the 1970s, to the post of

Cabinet "enforcer", charged with driving Mr Blair's will and agenda across Whitehall. Mr Mowlem is to stay on as the Northern Ireland Secretary at least until next year.

The Prime Minister spent yesterday at Chequers with four close advisers planning today's changes. He consulted John Prescott, his deputy, on the telephone. Neither Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, nor Mr Mandelson were present.

Mr Mandelson, who has been closely involved in virtually every key decision made by Mr Blair since he became Labour leader in 1994, and on his way up the Shadow Cabinet ladder, has been excluded from all reshuffle discussions because he is a key component of it. Last night he was telling friends that he had no idea what job he would be doing.

Mr Mandelson appeared to be in line for one of three posts: Secretary of State for Media, Culture and Sport, the job now held by Chris Smith; Dr Cunningham's job at the agriculture department; or Margaret Beckett's job as President of the Board of Trade, a job that he would relish but which might put him in conflict with Mr Brown, with whom he has had uncomfortable relations.

Mr Mandelson was once the clear favourite to take on the strengthened Cabinet Office role that Mr Blair has decided to give to Dr Cunningham. However, Mr Blair was urged both by Mr Mandelson, who wanted his own department, and Mr Brown not to put him in a post that would have increased the risk of a clash between the Treasury and Downing Street.

Mr Blair seems certain to sack Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, and David Clark, currently head of the Cabinet Office, also seems on his way out, unless Mr Blair pulls a surprise by sending him to agriculture. Harriet Harman appeared likely to be moved from her position as Social Security Secretary but she may retain her seat in the Cabinet by taking overall responsibility for women's and equality issues.

Alistair Darling, the Treasury Chief Secretary, remained favourite to take over at social security. And in spite of regular calls from the Tories and the media for his dismissal, Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, looked set to stay at the Treasury.

All the senior Cabinet figures — Mr Brown, Mr Prescott, Robin Cook, and Jack Straw — will stay in their present jobs.

Blériot Mark 2's Channel bid ends in the drink



Louis Blériot, grandson of the French aviator who in 1909 was the first man to fly across the Channel, emerges from his rickety biplane yesterday after his attempt to reenact the historic flight ended with a forced landing in a lake near Calais.

M Blériot, 54, a banker who took up flying just ten years ago, set off at dawn from Calais airport in one of three surviving Blériot monoplanes, but after flying barely a minute had to abandon his 'hope of repeating his grandfather's feat and landing

on the white cliffs of Dover (Ben Macintyre writes). He found that as soon as he started to turn, the plane did not respond normally. "I can't explain it," he said. "I didn't even get to the coast and out over the Channel. It's really very disappointing."

He had planned to make a film of the 30-mile trip for the 90th anniversary next year.

Experts, who fished the aircraft out of the lake an hour and a half after the crash, said while some historic parts had been lost for

good, the plane could be repaired. The original Louis Blériot crossed the Channel after Lord Northcliffe, proprietor of the *Daily Mail*, offered a prize of £1,000.

History takes a dive, page 14

Clinton fights to avoid jury

President Clinton is determined not to testify in person in front of a grand jury, as the White House struggles to find the least damaging way to respond to a subpoena from Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor.

White House lawyers are racing to thrash out a deal with Mr Starr which would save Mr Clinton from the humiliation of being the first incumbent President to give evidence before a federal grand jury in a criminal investigation. Page 12

BT deal to send shares soaring

Shares in British Telecom are likely to soar today, adding as much as £3 billion to value of the company, after it revealed details of a major joint venture with AT&T of the US.

The two companies are setting up a company, to be chaired by Sir Ian Vane, chairman of BT, which will offer a range of communications services to multinational corporations. Page 48

Big payers may be shamed

Gordon Brown is preparing to "name and shame" companies which have poor productivity records but agree to large pay rises for their workers.

The Chancellor, who is growing increasingly concerned about excessive boardroom pay, is considering plans to publish league tables highlighting the names of the worst offenders. Page 2

Cook to shake-up Foreign Office after arms affair

By Michael Evans, Defence Editor

THE official report into the arms-for-Africa affair, which will be published today, will be strongly critical of the breakdown in communications between diplomats and ministers in the Foreign Office which led to a sale of weapons to Sierra Leone in breach of a United Nations embargo.

To meet the criticisms expected from Sir Thomas Legg, QC, former Permanent Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, Robin Cook has drawn up a "modernisation" programme for the Foreign Office aimed at improving links between desk officers and ministers and reducing

what he calls the "hierarchy of management".

Mr Cook received his copy of the Legg report at the weekend but, Foreign Office sources said, he had examined the same documents and telegrams that had been handed over to Sir Thomas, and was able to make his own assessment before the former mandarin had delivered his judgement. This was why he was able to say in an interview at the weekend that he planned to tighten up procedures that had failed in the arms-to-Africa affair. Foreign Office officials were anxious to emphasise that Mr Cook was



Cook: plans to improve Foreign Office links

not prejudging or pre-empting the report.

The "scandal" broke in May when it emerged that the London-based security consultant company, Sandline International, had sold arms for the overthrow of the illegal military regime in Sierra Leone earlier this year, after discussing the issue with officials

Continued on page 2, col 6

'Tiny' Rowland lost will to live

By Michael Horsnell

ROLAND "Tiny" Rowland, the business tycoon and former owner of *The Observer* who died at the weekend, had been in a coma for more than a week at the London Clinic and "gave up the will to live". A family friend said that although the former Lomro chief, once condemned by Edward Heath as "the unacceptable face of capitalism", had been suffering from skin cancer, that was not the cause of death. "He gave up the will to live," she said. "It was pretty much his own decision to die."

Mr Rowland, 80, who conducted a 14-year feud with former business associate Mohamed Al Fayed over the control of Harrods, was on holiday on his yacht Hanse in

the Mediterranean with his wife Josie and four children when he was taken ill and flown to London.

Mr Rowland retired from the business world in 1995 after losing control of Lomro at the end of a power-struggle with Dieter Bock.

Last night Mr Al Fayed said: "Tiny Rowland and I were business rivals for many years but I take no joy in his death. I am sending my condolences to his family."

Donald Treflford, former editor of *The Observer*, said: "He built up a company over three decades on a Cecil Rhodes-like vision about Africa."

Obituary, page 23

England cash in on a testing time for umpires

By Alan Lee
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

A DAY of dramatic, uncompromising cricket at Trent Bridge has left England on the brink of squaring the Test series with South Africa through an improbable victory but done nothing to soothe the troubled relationship between players and umpires.

England, playing their most committed and disciplined cricket of a disappointing summer, ended the fourth day on 108 for one, pursuing a target of 247.

However, two critical decisions went against South Africa: first when Jonny Rhodes was ruled caught from a ball that brushed his pad and then when Michael

Atherton, the former England captain, was reprieved as he appeared to glove a ball from Allan Donald to the wicketkeeper.

Rhodes' dismissal could also be considered an example of players influencing a decision, a tactic the international umpires condemned as "cheating" after a recent conference. He was given out after an appeal led by the England captain and wicketkeeper, Alec Stewart, who was arguably in the best position to see he had not hit the ball.

England's players and management have seethed all summer about the volume of controversial decisions that have gone against them and they will doubtless believe that yesterday's episode only began to balance the books.

They may also point out that Nasser Hussain, plunging blindly forward at cover to try to catch the South African captain, Hansie Cronje, indicated he was unsure if the ball had carried.

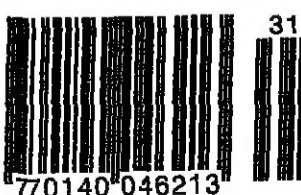
David Lloyd, the England coach, said afterwards: "It would be unfair to isolate any one decision, because there have been a number of incidents. There will always be passages of play at this level when there is a lot of appealing but, as players, you have to accept decisions and get on with the game." Bob Woolmer, the English-born coach of South Africa, said: "It's tough out there for the umpires."

Test action, pages 25, 29



TV & RADIO	46, 47
WEATHER	24
CROSSWORDS	24, 48
LETTERS	21
OBITUARIES	23
W. REES-MOGG	20
ARTS	18, 19
CHESS & BRIDGE	38
COURT & SOCIAL	22
SPORT	25-39
MIND & MATTER	15
LAW REPORT	41

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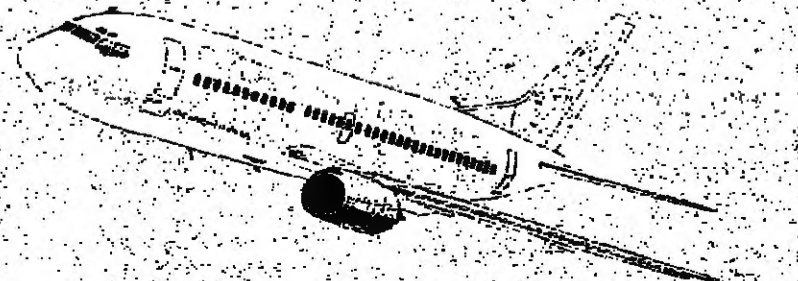


The great survivor, page 2

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Gay sex law promised within year

Home Secretary acts to save his Crime Bill, reports Philip Webster

JACK STRAW will attempt to head off a revolt by Labour backbenchers today by promising legislation within 12 months to lower the age of consent for gay sex from 18 to 16.

At a meeting with Labour MPs, the Home Secretary will try to persuade them not to press their clash with the Lords, which last week overturned a massive Commons vote in favour of equalising the age of consent at 16.

He fears that if they, in turn, reverse the Lords vote tomorrow night, his Crime and Disorder Bill, which fulfils Labour's election pledge to streamline youth justice, could

be in jeopardy. Yesterday he reiterated his determination to get the Bill on the statute book by the end of this week, when MPs leave Westminster for the summer recess.

He was speaking at the Archbishop of Canterbury's defence of his decision to enter the debate at a crucial stage last week to emphasise his opposition to lowering the age of consent.

The leading Labour supporters of the campaign to lower the age of consent made plain yesterday that they were unconvinced that there was a

danger to the Bill if it was again sent back to the Lords.

But Mr Straw, who backs lowering the age of consent for homosexuals, will state that he will make good Labour's long-stated pledge to change the law by the end of the next parliamentary session. That effectively means a short government Bill.

The Home Secretary will say that the delay can be used to look at ways of bringing in safeguards to prevent people in positions of responsibility, such as teachers and care workers, abusing their rela-

tionship with youngsters if the law is changed.

Mr Straw yesterday told BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*: "It is essential that we have that Bill on the statute book by the end of this week." He highlighted its provisions to deal with sex offenders sentenced before 1991, who at present are subject to no supervision rules when released from jail; his proposals to curb anti-social behaviour, and its major reforms of the youth justice system. "That is my imperative," he said.

He added that the Government had already given an undertaking to introduce legislation to equalise the age of consent in order to halt an action being taken by two homosexual men at the European Court of Human Rights. If the case had continued it was "almost certain" the court would find the unequal age unlawful.

As a poll by NOP of 750 people in *The Express* on Sunday showed that only one in four people backed lowering the age of consent for homosexuals, Mr Straw reiterated his opposition to lowering

the gay age of consent. Asked whether he would ever consider the option of homosexuals being allowed to marry, he said: "My own views on this is that at the present moment I'm not persuaded that that really is an option but the discussion continues and the kind of Church I want is a Church that invites discussion on these issues."

On the age of consent, Dr Carey said the Commons debate had focused largely on equality but many British bishops, who discussed the issue in June, felt that was not the way to approach it: "There are moral issues that have to be addressed."

Brown to shame firms who pay staff too much

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

GORDON Brown is preparing to "name and shame" unproductive companies that agree to large pay rises for their workers.

The Chancellor, who is increasingly concerned about excessive pay rises in the boardroom, is looking at plans to publish league tables highlighting the worst offenders.

It is his latest attempt to break the cycle of inflation-busting pay rises and inefficiency. At the same time, he is looking at tax incentives to encourage small firms to invest in research and development.

Mr Brown last week blamed poor productivity for Rover's decision to shed 1,500 jobs. He is angry that directors of the largest companies have awarded themselves pay rises averaging 18 per cent in the past year.

Meanwhile, John Edmonds, leader of the GMB general union, and Lord Healey, the former Labour Chancellor, called on Mr Brown to look again at extra taxes on the higher earners.

Lord Healey, interviewed on GMTV, said Mr Brown's actions so far should have kept wages down. He added: "He's kept control of inflation so the unions have no justification for going for rises so far above the rates of inflation. The unions gain as much as anybody from keeping wages in line with growth and inflation."

The real question he will have to look at very carefully — and so will the Prime Minister — is significant increases in taxation on higher salaries. According to the press, Brown wanted to introduce this year some increase in higher taxation, but Blair ruled it out. But this will have to be looked at again if this type of increase in executive salaries continues.

Mr Edmonds joined the attack on boardroom pay. He said: "The real problem is in very selective areas. It is in the boardroom with 15 per cent, 16 per cent and in some cases 20 per cent pay rises and of course these obscene figures in the City of London. To blame ordinary people who are getting very small increases for the excesses of a few is quite unreasonable."

"I think Gordon should direct his attack not on people in general because they are suffering as the recession begins to come closer, but to these particular groups in the boardroom and in the City where the money's been piling up in big black bags and they've been carting it off to the bank."

Calling for a fall in interest rates before the end of the year Mr Edmonds said: "I don't agree with some of the people who say we are going to go into a deep recession. But I do think we are going down faster than we need."



The model Marie Helvin with the fashion designer Bruce Oldfield at the Cartier International Polo in Windsor Great Park yesterday. Report, page 32

Cook unit to tackle sanctions busting

Continued from page 1

from the FCO's Africa Department (Equatorial), and Peter Penfold, the High Commissioner for Sierra Leone.

Sir Thomas examined all the papers referring to Sierra Leone and Sandline International that were sent to the private offices of three ministers: Robin Cook, Tony Lloyd, and Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, the Foreign Office Minister in the House of Lords.

He is understood to have found that although there were papers pointing out the involvement of Sandline in Sierra Leone, warnings of a possible breach of the UN embargo were not passed to ministers.

Although there is expected to be some criticism of ministers, particularly Mr Lloyd, the main focus of attack will be the failure of communication between the overworked and understaffed Africa department and politicians.

Mr Cook said earlier this month that he intended to introduce further measures to modernise the Foreign Office, to make it less stuffy and more effective, and he plans to use the publication of the report to announce a new package of ideas. He will announce the setting up of a sanctions enforcement unit in the Foreign Office, which will be responsible for ensuring that arms embargoes are rigorously implemented.

Whitehall already has its own Restricted Enforcement Unit, an inter-departmental committee which is supposed to monitor breaches of British export controls. However, after the arms-for-Africa affair which caused him deep embarrassment, Mr Cook feels it is necessary for the FCO to have its own anti-sanctions-busting unit. It is expected to be part of the FCO's United Nations department.

One of the main criticisms expected to be highlighted by Sir Thomas is that information about developments in Sierra Leone took too long to reach the higher echelons of the Foreign Office. One reason was that Mr Penfold had to leave the country after the coup in May last year and was forced to set up an office without secure communications in Conakry, the capital of neighbouring Guinea. None of the key faxes sent by Mr Penfold reached the Foreign Office.

Mr Cook has made it clear in statements to the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee that no ministers or officials approved any breach of the UN arms embargo. Sir Thomas is expected to confirm this in his report.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Unfrosted clergyman challenges dismissal

A clergyman who was unfrocked after being found guilty of having an affair with a married parishioner, and was accused of preying on others, is challenging his sacking in the High Court. The Rev Clifford Williams is applying for a judicial review of the ecclesiastical court's ruling after it refused him leave to appeal against his dismissal to the Church in Wales's Supreme Court.

His lawyer Afzal Chowdhury is lodging the application in court this week and has instructed Michael Beloff, the eminent QC and President of Trinity College, Oxford, to act on his behalf. He will argue that the Bishop of Bangor, who dismissed Mr Williams, acted as prosecutor, witness and judge and did not adopt the correct standards of proof as required by law.

The outcome could have serious implications for the Anglican Church, which has its own disciplinary procedure for clerics, who do not have the same rights in cases of unfair dismissal as other citizens.

Waiting for permission

The estate of Samuel Beckett, below, has halted a controversial production of *Waiting for Godot* because it was to be acted by women. A Manchester theatre company had to call off its show just weeks before the Edinburgh Festival Fringe after the estate ruled that the "production in drag" could bring ridicule upon the author. Management of the Beckett estate stopped the Grimey Up North theatre company's production when it heard that Vladimir and Estragon, the central characters, were to be played by women. The company tried to persuade the estate that by having women act the roles of the two tramps it would bring the play up to date by showing that their plight was that of humankind, not that of men alone. The estate refused to bend the rules and the company's performance in Edinburgh had to be abandoned. The theatre company had spent £1,500 on publicity for the play after six months of preparation and three months of rehearsals for the week-long stint. The company said there was a delay of five months in receiving the contract for the play, which contains a clause specifying that the sex of the actors cannot be altered. Grimey Up North tried to persuade the estate to relax its conditions, but the estate stood firm.



Medical research boost

Medical research grants of £130 million will be spent on new scientific programmes during the next five years, it was announced yesterday. Most will be supporting scientists in British universities. They include funding for a long-term health study of 3,650 people based at University College London, research at Oxford University aimed at finding more effective ways of analysing genetic variation, and work at Imperial College School of Medicine, London, on anti-bacterial drugs. Some £97 million will go to universities; the rest to MRC institutes and units.

Lone woman in job fight

A woman believed to be the only female cotton classifier in Britain is taking her former employer to an industrial tribunal after being sacked for allegedly refusing to work in an area of Africa where she says that she was attacked. Lisa Lawrence, below, a graduate with four years' training as a cotton classifier, has lodged a claim alleging sexual discrimination and unfair dismissal against Baumann Hinde & Co of Liverpool, a subsidiary of Lomho. Her job entailed travelling around the world to classify raw cotton into standard grades before shipment. Miss Lawrence, 27, alleges that she was attacked during an introduction to Mozambique. She said that she told her superiors she did not wish to work in Mozambique again because of her safety concerns, but was later ordered to spend at least three months there. "I was given an ultimatum — go there or be sacked. I was told that I had ruined things for other women as they were unlikely ever to hire another woman for classing cotton," Miss Lawrence said. The Liverpool law firm Michael Ball, acting for Baumann Hinde, said the company was strongly resisting the allegations. The tribunal is set for August 14.



Vote for uniforms

A survey by NOP has found David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, is facing fresh pressure to review the Government's stand-off policy on school uniforms. Seventy per cent of people in the sample thought school uniforms should be introduced to help to raise standards in schools. A ministerial source last night said that although school uniforms were not high on the political agenda, changes in policy could be considered. In the run-up to the election, Mr Blunkett said parents rather than schools should vote on whether uniforms should be introduced. Uniforms, page 17

Reward for Labour's ultra-loyalist

Philip Webster on the rise of the Great Survivor

TONY BLAIR has deliberately refrained from reading the mountain of press speculation about the reshuffle on which he and a handful of his closest advisers were working at Chequers yesterday. But he was distinctly irritated to be told last weekend of ill-informed reports that Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, was for the chop.

For many weeks now the Prime Minister has had Dr Cunningham, the Great Survivor of present-day Labour politics, in mind for the post of Cabinet "enforcer" — the man charged with the task of ensuring that ministers and departments work more closely together and speaking for the Government across a wide range of issues.

Mr Blair has decided at last to agree to Peter Mandelson's long-proposed wish to be given a department of his own, allowing him to put aside his image as the High Priest of spin-doctors. In com-

ing to that conclusion he was strongly supported by Gordon Brown, who is believed to have told both Mr Blair and Mr Mandelson that the Minister without Portfolio should have a job with a portfolio. Although the Brown-Mandelson relationship is slightly less strained than it was, the prospect of their being in conflict at the head of the Treasury and a beefed up Cabinet Office intended to become the engine room of government was not attractive to Mr Blair.

So he is turning to a man he has always liked and with whom he has always got on well, someone he privately calls a grown-up politician. At 58 and having served under six Labour leaders, Dr Cunningham will be moving into a bigger job than he could ever have thought possible when he lost his place in



Cunningham: closer to the levers of power

Labour's Shadow Cabinet only three years ago and was downgraded to Shadow National Heritage Secretary.

He got on to the bottom rung of the ministerial ladder as a parliamentary aide under Wilson, became an Energy Minister under Callaghan,

did various front-bench jobs under Foot, Shadow Environment Secretary under Kinnock, and Shadow Foreign Secretary under his good friend John Smith.

The appointment may surprise some, but not those who have heard Mr Blair praising Dr Cunningham's handling of European negotiations, his efforts to get the European ban on British beef lifted, his improvement of morale inside the Ministry of Agriculture, and his skills as a media operator. Most importantly for Mr Blair, he is an ultra-loyalist.

Dr Cunningham's task will be to break down the Whitehall tradition of "departmentalism", again on view during the comprehensive spending review, and chase progress. Although he has his friends and allies on the Labour benches, Dr Cun-

ningham has never gone out of his way to curry favour among Labour MPs and ministers. He regularly secured lower votes in Shadow Cabinet elections than might have been expected for someone in senior positions.

The sharp tongue that has occasionally alienated his friends on the Right as well as his critics on the Left may well have to be used in his new role. According to Cabinet insiders he will probably relish the odd confrontation and will not be scared of standing up to Mr Blair if the need arises. This may have attracted Mr Blair.

Dr Cunningham has always told friends that he was more interested in government than Opposition. Now, performing a task similar to that of Michael Heseltine as Deputy Prime Minister for the Tories in the last government, he will be closer than he could ever have dreamt to the real levers of power.

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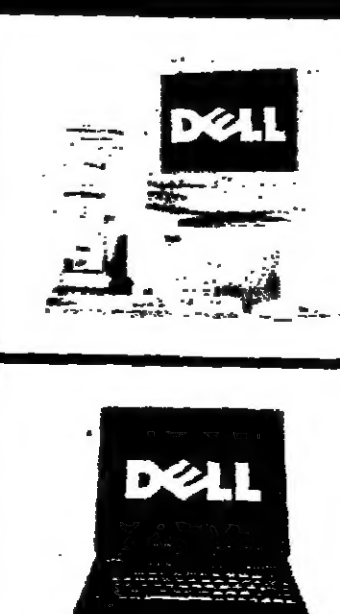
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Colourful cast that marched to the top rank of television comedy

ARTHUR LOWE was 53 when he led the cast of *Dad's Army* as Captain George Mainwaring, bank manager and Rotarian. He went on to appear in *Potter, Bless Me Father* and *A.J. Wentworth* before dying of a stroke in 1982 at the age of 67. His wife, Joan, played Miss Godfrey in *Dad's Army* and appeared in nearly all his shows. He would not take a role without her.

□ Arthur K. Wilson, Captain Mainwaring's privately educated sergeant, was played by John Le Mesurier. He won a BAFTA honour for his role as Kim Philby in the television play *Traveller*. He nearly had to pull out of the last series because of illness. He died in 1983 at the age of 71.

□ Clive Dunn, who played Lance



Britain's last line of defence: from left, Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier, Clive Dunn, John Laurie, Arnold Ridley, Ian Lavender and James Beck

Corporal Jack Jones, went on to appear in the children's television show *Granddad* and had a No 1 single in 1970 with a song of the same name. Now 73, he and his wife, Priscilla Morgan, an actress, divide their time between London

and the Algarve, where he paints. □ John Laurie was 71 when he starred as Private James Frazier, an undertaker whose favourite line was "We're doomed." He had been thinking of retiring from acting before his call-up to *Dad's Army*.

He died three years after the end of the last series, at the age of 83, from emphysema. □ Private Charles P. Godfrey, a gentleman's outfitter at the Army and Navy, was played by Arnold Ridley, who, at 72, was the oldest

member of the cast. He wrote more than 30 plays and also acted in *The Archers* (as Doughty Hood), *Crossroads* and *Coronation Street*. He was appointed an OBE in 1962 and died two years later, aged 88.

□ Ian Lavender landed the role of Private Frank Pike, the "stupid boy", at the age of 22, after leaving drama school. His performances since have included playing alongside Dustin Hoffman in *The Merchant of Venice*. He appeared in the comedy series *The Glums*

and *The Hello Goodbye Man*. □ Private Joe Walker, the Cockney wide boy, was played by James Beck, who also starred in his own LWT series, *Romany Jones*. His death in 1973, at the age of 44, came midway through the recording of a series. He fell ill while opening a file and died during surgery for a suspected stomach ulcer.

□ Bill Pertwee, now 72, had only one line in the original episode but his character, ARP Warden Bill Hodges, became a favourite with audiences. He went on to appear in *You Rang M'Lord*, another series by Jimmy Perry and David Croft, and became an accomplished writer. He lives with his wife, Marion, in Surrey. His cousin, Jon, played *Dr Who*.

Thirty years on, Dad's Army is still full of fight

WHEN the first episode of *Dad's Army* was screened, the results of an audience survey gave it little chance of survival. But 30 years later the Home Guard platoon of Walmington-on-Sea is holding its own against more modern armament in the ratings war.

This Friday programme, originally called *The Fighting Tigers*, celebrates three decades on our screens, after first running for nine years on the BBC until Remembrance Sunday 1977.

Five of the original cast have died, but Clive Dunn (Lance Corporal Jack Jones), Ian Lavender (Private Frank Pike) and Bill Pertwee (ARP Warden Bill Hodges), will be reunited with Jimmy Perry and David Croft, the programme's creators, at the Imperial War Museum in London.

Dunn, 79, remembers the series with affection — especially the antics of the late John Le Mesurier. "I once spent New Year's Eve with John in Trafalgar Square and he said to this policeman: 'Can you tell me where to find Alcoholics Anonymous?' The policeman said: 'Why? Do you want to join?' and John said: 'No, I want to resign.' He liked to drink, did John."

"It was a very happy time," Dunn said. "We all got on

First foray of the Home Guard was not a success.

But the rest is TV history, writes

Claudia Joseph

terribly well. There was quite a lot of competition over who got the most laughs."

Lavender, 52, the youngest member of the cast, was shown the ropes by the late Arthur Lowe. "The inside of a television studio was a nightmare," he said. "I didn't know what a camera looked like. Arthur gently said to me, 'Don't worry about having a lot to say. Get a funny costume and stand next to me.' For a leading man to say that to an absolute spog was incredible."

Pertwee, 72, remembers spending hilarious summers in Norfolk filming with Lowe. "One day we were driving along and he said, 'Do you mind stopping so I can spend a penny?' There was a ditch with a telegraph pole in it and, before I knew it, he had

slipped and his braces had caught in the telegraph pole. It was hysterical."

The idea for *Dad's Army* germinated when Jimmy Perry, who had been in the Home Guard, was strolling past Buckingham Palace and remembered the Local Defence Volunteers who manned sentry posts during the Second World War. He created the concept, which he showed to his friend David Croft, a BBC producer, and they sold the idea to Michael Mills, the head of BBC comedy.

The show ran for nine series and 80 episodes, as well as more than 300 repeats. Barbara Windsor, veteran of the *Carry On* films, and now Peggy Mitchell in *EastEnders*, appeared in episode six, *Shooting Pains*. Fred Trueman starred in the 36th episode, *The Test*. The programme was reported to be the Queen's favourite.

The producers insisted on accuracy, winning them a Writers' Guild award in 1970 and a BAFTA for Best Comedy the following year. The boots, watches and Arthur Lowe's glasses were all originals and Captain Mainwaring's uniform was slightly better fabric than those of his men.

However, the theme tune, *Who Do You Think You Are*



The surviving cast members from *Dad's Army*: Ian Lavender, above, Bill Pertwee, below left, and Clive Dunn



Kidding, Mr Hitler?, was not an original wartime song, but was written by Perry. The band of the Coldstream Guards played the tune while the wartime comedian Bud Flanagan sang it. It proved to

be his last job in show-business: he died shortly after recording it.

A feature film was made by Columbia Pictures in 1971, the stage show toured in 1975 and 1976, and it was adapted for

radio. BBC2 is currently repeating the first series, and the next episode will be shown on Tuesday. A limited edition commemorative envelope with pictures of the cast and postmarked Stepford, where

the series was filmed, is available, and the BBC is selling a £7.99 audio tape *Dad's Army 8: My British Buddy* and a £10.99 video *Dad's Army — The Big Parade*.

Young and old rallied to defence of country

By A CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 1.5 million volunteers served in the Home Guard during the Second World War. The Local Defence Volunteers, as it was first called, was formed hastily by Churchill in May 1940.

Within weeks young men and old signed up, many unable to join the regular Army because of medical disabilities. Although officially volunteers had to be aged between 17 and 65, boys as young as 14 and 80-year-old men helped to swell the ranks. Poorly trained at first, many of the LDVs, who were given the name "Look, Duck and Vanish" by comedians of the time, were handed brooms, sticks and truncheons to fend off the enemy. But as they became better trained the part-timers were given weapons instruction and became a force to contend with.

Last month surviving volunteers of the Home Guard were angry when a Channel 4 documentary, *Secret History: Dad's Army*, claimed the volunteers were incompetent, overenthusiastic and accident-prone. The programme claimed that 50 civilians were killed by mistake by the part-time soldiers.

Sir James Spicer, the former Conservative MP for West Dorset, who signed illegally at the age of 15, said: "We played a major part in guarding vulnerable installations."

Salmon 'at risk' from latest water sport craze

By Gillian Harris
SCOTLAND-CORRESPONDENT

WATER sports enthusiasts competing in white-knuckle races on the River Tay are threatening the future of one of Scotland's finest salmon breeding grounds, according to anglers.

Hydroboarding, which is the latest white-water craze, is being blamed for disturbing the deep pools where salmon rest. Fishermen claim that the plastic sledges used to carry hydroboarders downstream could frighten the fish and force them to move elsewhere, disrupting their breeding patterns.

Michael Smith, chairman of the Tayside District Salmon Fishery Board, has given warning that the sport, which is hugely popular on stag nights, is potentially damaging to the river's wildlife which includes otters and rare birds such as sandpipers.

"It is not a major problem yet but we are afraid that if the sport's popularity continues to grow, it could harm the environment. Hydroboarding is not a sport we would like to see encouraged," he said.

Nevertheless hydroboarding, or river sledging, is attracting new recruits every week. Those who have hurtled headfirst down the river clinging to a plastic board describe the run as exhilarating. One hydroboarder said the adrenaline rush was similar to surfing a perfect wave.

Hull find raises hope for pirate's treasure

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

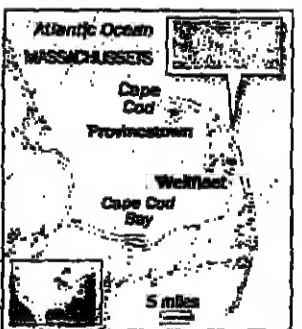
AFTER more than a decade of searching, a schoolteacher turned treasure hunter claims to have located the booby-laden hull of the *Whydah*, the fabled flagship of the infamous English pirate, Black Sam Bellamy.

Barry Clifford first found wreckage of the former slave ship off Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in 1984, when the recovery of the ship's bell, inscribed "The *Whydah* Gally 1716", established it as the first confirmed pirate wreck. His team has retrieved thousands of items ranging from gold "pieces of eight" to primitive hand-grenades.

The *Whydah* artifacts, gathered in a museum at nearby Provincetown, helped to re-write the history of the golden age of piracy that lasted from 1680 to 1725, when up to 10,000 cut-throats plied the trade routes. Historians argued that the finds, such as jewellery cut into pieces, suggested that a



Bellamy died when his ship went down off Cape Cod



pirate ship was a more egalitarian community than previously supposed, with the crew taking a share of the booty.

Bellamy was a young sailor who captured more than 50 ships during a year-long rampage. He seized the *Whydah*, which took its name from a West African songbird, in the Caribbean as it was returning to England after discharging a cargo of slaves in Jamaica. It took Bellamy two days to catch the slave ship, which was laden with ivory, indigo, sug-

ar, cinchona bark (for making quinine) and an estimated £30,000 of gold and silver, packed into sea chests.

Bellamy made the vessel his flagship, and many of his 150 crew are believed to have been freed slaves. Legend holds that the ship went down in a fierce storm in 1717 as Bellamy sailed to Cape Cod to see a lover.

The main hull of the *Whydah* had eluded Mr Clifford's divers until last week, when they were working about a quarter of a mile offshore in an area 25ft deep and full of artifacts. After digging through 10 feet of sand, the divers discovered a wooden beam and then the metal-lined timbers of a 30-foot section of hull. Mr Clifford believes the section is part of the ship's powder room, which had been covered with tin or lead to keep rats away and the explosives dry. The site also contained tantalising amounts of gold dust, raising hopes that the wreck will yield a small fortune in pirate treasure.



The ship's bell from the *Whydah* was the first find

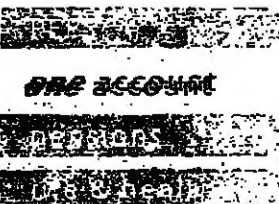
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Big bad world invades model village

By Peter Birkett

IT DATES from a more innocent age, a 1950s seaside attraction visited over the years by tens of thousands of people captivated by the magic of its tiny figures and miniature houses.

But today the Model Village at Ramsgate, Kent, has been brought sharply into the lawless 90s. Under constant attack by vandals and frequently robbed by its visitors, the 45-year-old village has been forced to follow the example of its real-life town centre neighbours and buy closed-circuit tele-

vision cameras to focus on its tiny cobbled streets. "We seem to be a microcosm of what is going on in the wider world," said Ken Wake, 45, who owns the £20 scale village and its 200 buildings. "If you like, we are the place where reality has destroyed the innocence of make-believe."

Four cameras, linked to a 24-hour monitoring station 280 miles away near Chester, are being installed in the half-acre village on the West Cliff above Ramsgate harbour. They are being paid for by a £23,500 grant from the European Union's Regional Development Fund in

the hope of boosting tourism in the Thanet area. "The village is the constant target of vandals who come here week after week, smashing the place up," said Mr Wake. "In the past few months they have caused damage of more than £5,000."

"They kicked in the garage, damaged the manor house and attacked the fishermen's quay. They've had a go at the church and some of the pubs. They even smashed up the lifeboat. A couple of months ago we woke up to find that every piece of glass in the village had been broken. It is just very, very sad."

Straw pledges fast but fair asylum system

Richard Ford on White Paper strategy for cutting backlog of 73,000 cases

JACK STRAW yesterday promised to "get tougher" with asylum-seekers and clamp down on marriages of convenience in his wide-ranging reform of the immigration system.

A White Paper published today will reveal his strategy for a "faster, firmer and fairer" system to ease the backlog of 73,000 cases. The measures will include new powers for immigration officers to enter property and for registrars to uncover bogus marriages, as well as the launch of a Home Office unit to tackle unscrupulous immigration advisers.

The Home Secretary dismissed suggestions that he would order an amnesty for people already in the UK, to clear the backlog of unresolved cases. It is expected, however, that up to 10,000 whose applications were lodged before 1993 and who are still awaiting an initial decision will eventually be able to stay in the country.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

- ☐ Backlog of 73,000 applications and appeals
- ☐ Forged travel documents
- ☐ Unscrupulous immigration advisers and lawyers
- ☐ Bogus marriages
- ☐ Detention for immigrants
- ☐ Right of appeal for visitors refused entry for marriages and funerals
- ☐ Cash payments to applicants deprived of social security benefits
- ☐ New powers for immigration officers to forcibly enter property

"We are going to get tougher. In the last ten years we have seen a ten-fold increase in the number of people claiming asylum," Mr Straw said yesterday.

"As a constituency MP, I am seeing a great growth of people abusing the asylum system simply to evade immigration control or because they are economic migrants to this country. We are going to be faster, firmer and fairer."

The White Paper proposes

giving immigration officers the power forcibly to enter property, search inhabitants and gather evidence. They currently have powers of arrest but must be accompanied by police if they wish to make a forcible entry.

Mr Straw wants registrars to have statutory powers to demand documentary proof of identity and nationality. He believes that this would help to cut marriages organised to evade immigration law. The

package of measures to be announced this afternoon will include a Home Office unit that will be hunted down unscrupulous immigration advisers who offer bad advice on the likelihood of succeeding with an asylum claim or help immigrants to make up stories about persecution.

The number of overseas liaison officers, who work with airlines abroad, will be increased from five to 20. They help to spot travellers with forged documents boarding planes to the UK. In 1997 the number of people found with inadequate documents rose 17 per cent to 13,000.

There are 50,000 asylum-seekers awaiting a decision on their application and 23,000 awaiting an appeal. Mr Straw said on BBC's *Breakfast With Frost* yesterday: "There is not going to be an amnesty, let me make that clear. Anyone now in the country who has had a decision made against them or is awaiting removal or deportation is not going to be



The White Paper aims to reduce the wait for asylum-seekers, including those held at immigration centres

allowed to stay." But he said that the UK would continue to be a refuge for people genuinely fleeing persecution: "If their case is properly established and they cannot go back because they really seriously worry about persecution, they will be able to stay here."

The White Paper, which will

be followed by legislation in the next session of Parliament, will recommend changes to the benefit system to relieve the financial pressure on local authorities who make subsistence payments to asylum-seekers.

Other changes include a right of appeal to visitors

refused entry to the UK. This follows complaints that many relatives of UK residents, particularly from the Indian sub-continent, have been refused entry to attend family weddings and funerals.

Foreign domestic staff are to be given the right to leave their employers if they are ill-

treated. They would have to have specialised domestic skills, rather than general household skills, and would have to prove to the police or health authorities that they had been abused before seeking similar employment.

Law Report, page 41

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How to make the Internet mobile in ten minutes...

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phone can also be substantially cheaper than paying hotel rates.

Why is the SH888 the best phone for mobile data?

To transfer data, PCs require a modem. Before the Ericsson SH888, a portable PC

teries. Because the modem is built into the phone, the power isn't drawn from the PC. As the phone need only be used on infra-red when you transfer data, the drain on the battery is minimal too. And because it supports the IrDA protocol it is compatible with the widest range of PCs, laptops and PDAs (operating Windows CE 2.0). It's even compatible with the Psion 5 and the Palm III.

So how do I use the SH888 to connect to the Internet?

Connecting to the Internet with the SH888 is extremely simple. But it must be noted that you cannot just buy the hardware, switch it on and expect to browse the web. Firstly you have to subscribe to an Internet service provider, either privately or through your company and then each time follow these simple steps. Activate your PC or PDA's infra-red port, select "Activate IR port" on the SH888's menu. Place the phone next to the computer, ensuring the infra-red ports are facing each other. Then either log into your office network or dial into your Internet service provider. Click onto your Internet icon and enter your desired address. For faster downloading you can opt to turn the images off.

And how do I use the SH888 for e-mail?

Sending and receiving

e-mail is as simple as connecting to the Internet and follows much the same pattern - so again, you must have an e-mail account with a service provider either privately or through your office. Switch on your PC and phone, line up the infra-red ports and to send or receive e-mail, dial into your office or service provider. Then click on the e-mail or the in-box icons. You need only be on-line to transmit and receive e-mails, so you can read and write them at your leisure without tying up your phone line, keeping your costs down as well as your line free for other business.

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The new SH888.

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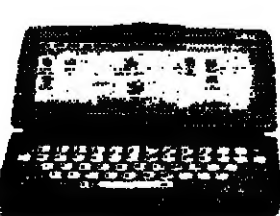
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Brazil wants rare macaws seized in British raids

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

BRAZIL is demanding the return of three of the world's rarest birds, which are being held at a secret location in northern England.

The Lear's macaws were seized in raids by Customs and Excise investigators on houses in Northallerton and Driffield, in Yorkshire, four months ago.

In an attempt to save them from extinction, Brazilian authorities are attempting to track down and repatriate all rare native parrots smuggled out of the country and sold to private collectors and pet dealers. The campaign reflects efforts by wildlife-rich developing nations to get back the rare and endangered animals and plants that have been taken from the wild over recent years.

The Lear's macaws in Britain were found after an investigation into an international network of bird dealers that covered Belgium, Germany, the Czech Republic, Bosnia and Britain. Three men were arrested in the raids and released on police bail while the haul is being evaluated.

Crawford Allan, global enforcement assistance co-ordinator with Traffic, a Cambridge-based organisation that monitors the worldwide trade in rare and endangered species, said yesterday that the decision to hold the three macaws at a secret location underscored their rarity and the constant threat of theft.

Between 60 and 130 wild Lear's macaws (*Anodorhynchus leari*) remain at their cliff-edge home in Raso da Catarina, Bahia. They enjoy the highest ranking under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species, which bans all trade in them.

Duncan McNiven, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, which has been involved in the investigations, said yesterday: "They are far rarer than a tiger or a giant

panda. They are about as rare as a bird can be."

The macaws are threatened by habitat destruction and clearing of land by farmers for cattle, which eat their favourite food, licuri palm nuts. Increasingly, poaching and smuggling have become a problem since their *loque* was found in 1978. The Brazilian Government estimates that at least 20 Lear's macaws have been smuggled out of the country over the past 20 years.

Authorities in Singapore recently confiscated two of the birds from a private collector. Two more were seized at an airport in France along with illegal documents. One died but the other was returned to Brazil where staff at Sao Paulo zoo are seeing if it can be put back in the wild or used for captive breeding. The Brazilian Government wants Britain and Singapore to follow the example set by France. However, the authorities here are concerned for the birds during a stressful flight home.



Lear's macaw: top of the endangered species list

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Art college head demolishes the brick wall school

THE head of one of Britain's leading art colleges yesterday attacked "the Turner Prize syndrome", dismissing brick walls and bottled body fluids as the emperor's new clothes.

Leonard McComb, keeper of the Royal Academy Schools, said he was unable to understand how people could marvel at a drawing by Michelangelo with the same enthusiasm they showed for "piano bits hanging from wires, as if they are both the same thing".

Mr McComb said he was disturbed by the "art careerists" who promoted "cutting edge" art simply because they demanded sensation. "Their priorities are the quick cash sale and the power they accumulate from total and complete majority control. Moreover, many of these careerists deliberately set out to destroy tradition and the spiritual in art."

He despaired at the stranglehold exerted by conceptualists — who expected their audiences to read ideas into

Royal Academy tutor condemns commercialism of 'Turner Prize syndrome', writes

Dalya Alberge

found objects — over artists who painted and sculpted modern works inspired by the Old Masters. The only consolation, Mr McComb suggested, was that the Turner Prize syndrome was a passing phase.

He criticised those who promoted "the idea that anything and everything is art. I don't mind whether something is abstract or figurative, painting or sculpture, providing the artist is a poet and moves people. This is no more than the emperor's clothes. I just think it's not to do with

art. It's to do with the ad man's world. That's what they do."

Mr McComb, born in Glasgow in 1930, steps down as keeper this year to devote time to his own work. No one could accuse him of being a traditionalist for the sake of it. He is a modern artist whose work is represented in collections held by the Tate Gallery and the Arts Council.

His painting and draughtsmanship — imposing figure studies and landscapes invigorated by the classical tradition — are admired by leading contemporary artists such as R.B. Kitaj. He speaks of supporting "new things", including some conceptual work, singling out Kenneth Martin, whose abstracts use the chance selection of numbers to determine the placement of lines on a grid.

The brick wall, featuring some 20,000 of them, was commissioned by the Tate from Per Kirkeby, a Danish artist, and was constructed by a team of bricklayers. While some visitors thought it was just a high brick wall, critics applauded how "the clarity of the structure sings out".

Among numerous artists who find new uses for bodily fluids are Andres Serrano, who is avidly collected by Charles Saatchi. Curators and critics have read deep significance into Serrano's work, which has included photographing every conceivable bodily fluid.

He achieved notoriety when he was attacked by religious leaders over his image of a crucifix immersed in a jar of his own urine. He claimed that *Piss Christ* was inspired by Renaissance imagery. *Art in America* magazine said in 1990 that he produced objects



Leonard McComb, pictured with three of his recent works, was disparaging about "art careerists" who set out to destroy the spiritual in art

of great and seductive beauty that addressed some of the weightiest subjects.

Mr McComb's comments did not go down well with Cathy de Monchaux, who has been shortlisted for this year's Turner Prize "for the growing complexity and richness" of her sculptures — folded and stuffed suede, wall-mounted on metal frames, to hint at parts of the body. She said: "I

could say something that wasn't printable."

She described his criticism as "a reactionary, middle-aged male response to change", and added: "I'm just as happy to look at something old as something new. One's also trying to make work for one's time, not for a past time. It would be pointless to make art like Michelangelo. It wouldn't mean anything to anybody."

Contemporary artists are like social barometers. The work has to reflect the time we are in." Asked whether any Old Masters had inspired her, she said: "Nothing particular."

Condemning the general superficiality of conceptual art, Mr McComb said that the "mystery in all beautiful works is not something that's intended"; a Michelangelo, a Rembrandt or a Constable "re-

energised" at every visit.

Lamenting that Turner Prize syndrome artists appeared largely uninterested in the Old Masters and in learning the rules before breaking them, he recalled that, when one of the greatest modern masters, Francis Bacon, was shown a work by a student at the Royal College of Art, he walked him to the Victoria & Albert Museum next door.

There he pointed to a Turner and told him: "If you want to learn to paint, copy that." "He walked away and left him there," Mr McComb said, adding that artists could never stop learning from the masters.

De Monchaux, 37, said she had never copied any of the Old Masters. "I'm not sure that copying is a way to learn what people have done."



Objects of Mr McComb's scorn: works such as those by Damien Hirst, above, and Gillian Wearing



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MPs want ban on Orangemen joining RUC

Unionists upset by proposal, writes Audrey Magee

ORANGEMEN may be banned from joining the RUC if the Government accepts the recommendations of a Northern Ireland Affairs Committee report to be published in Belfast today.

The report on the composition, recruitment and training of the RUC will also apply to exclusively Roman Catholic organisations such as the Ancient Order of Hibernia. According to the BBC, the Commons select committee's report also recommends that the Union flag should not be flown over RUC stations on July 12, the biggest day in the Protestant marching calendar.

The committee, which includes four Northern Ireland MPs and is chaired by Peter Brooke, the Conservative former Northern Ireland Secretary, carried out a detailed inquiry into the RUC. Its proposals, aimed at creating an impartial police force, are certain to anger Orangemen. Jeffrey Donaldson, a member of the Orange Order and one of two Ulster Unionist Party members of the committee, said he believed it was potentially discriminatory. He voted against the proposal.

He told the BBC: "What you're saying is that, if someone is a member of the loyal

orders or Ancient Order of Hibernians, they are not eligible to join the RUC. Now in Northern Ireland that would exclude a lot of people."

Gregory Campbell, the Democratic Unionist Party security spokesman and a member of the Independent Orange Order, said the proposal would increase tensions in Northern Ireland. He added that Orangemen in the RUC were different from Freemasons in Britain.

"The rationale for those cases in Great Britain is that membership of those organisations may well bestow

favouritism. Up to now there has never been any allegation that that has been the case in Northern Ireland."

Of the 13,000 members of the RUC, 93 per cent are from non-Roman Catholic backgrounds. The force is coming under increasing national and international pressure to alter its make-up and become more attractive to potential Catholic recruits.

Chris Patten, the former Governor of Hong Kong, is carrying out a review of the force. In compliance with the Good Friday agreement, the brief of his seven-member committee is to design "a police service that can enjoy widespread support from, and is seen as an integral part of, the community as a whole". Its report is expected next summer.

Eddie McGrady, the SDLP member of the select committee, said that the proposed ban on Orange membership went some way to improving the make-up of the police force. "On balance, people will realise it is a reasonable condition of employment," he said.

After release, the committee's report will go to Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, for her consideration.

PARADES TALKS

The leader of the Orange Order has proposed dropping a ban on talks with nationalist residents opposed to their parades. Robert Saulters, the Grand Master of the Orange Order, said it was time to talk to the residents' associations, many of which the institution maintains are a front for Sinn Féin. The proposal will be put to the Grand Lodge, the order's ruling body, on Saturday.



Barefoot on the scree in the chill of early morning, climbers ascend Croagh Patrick in what is, for many, an annual pilgrimage

Barefoot climbers seek peace in mist

Martin Fletcher joins the pilgrims of Croagh Patrick

TONY SPAIN left his home in Dublin as the day was a few minutes old yesterday, drove four hours to Co Mayo, climbed a 2,510ft mountain and attended Mass at the summit in mist and freezing rain. For good measure he made the ascent barefoot. He called this little outing a spiritual "insurance policy".

Mr Spain, 39, was not alone

in his endeavour. He was one of at least 20,000 people who joined the annual "Reek Sunday" pilgrimage to the top of Croagh Patrick — a tradition that dates from AD441 when St Patrick is said to have spent 40 days and nights fasting on the mountain. And St Patrick

merely Christianised a pagan festival that began in about 3000BC.

Father John Gavin, one of the 15 priests who conducted the mountain-top Masses every 30 minutes, described the pilgrimage as an annual cleansing of the soul. However, to the non-devout it is distinctly baffling, and while the goal may be entry to Heaven, the route is downright hellish.

Pilgrims from across Ireland started arriving before dawn — young and old, all states of fitness, alone or in families. They came clad in fleeces, jumpers or T-shirts, in woolly hats and baseball caps, clutching rosary beads and bottles of fluorescent pop.

They bought sturdy sticks for £1 apiece from young men selling great piles of the things, then started their two-hour or so climb into the clouds that began as a muddy and gentle incline and ended with a near-vertical face of wet and jagged scree. Mountain

rescue teams stood guard. A fleet of ambulances was on standby at the bottom.

For safety's sake, pilgrims are now discouraged from making the ascent before dawn, but there are still broken bones most years and sometimes fatalities. "Ten to seven in the morning, my good God! My mother would be proud of me," exclaimed one red-faced girl as she staggered up. "Not too far now," a man yelled in encouragement as he slithered down.

The mountain is rich in gold. It is the holiest in Ireland, one of the few countries that goes in for holy mountains. It offers a breathtaking view of Clew Bay with its countless little islands, but none of that was obvious from the summit yesterday because visibility was practically nil.

It was possible to make out groups of pilgrims uttering Hail Marys as they circled the small white chapel 15 times, little huddles drinking tea from flasks and the outlines of

rough stone shelters selling cans of fizzy drink.

The rain lashed down as a priest in a glass cabin said Mass to the assembled throng through loud speakers. But nothing dampened the pilgrims' spirits.

"I feel great," said Mary McGuire, a frail-looking middle-aged factory worker who began making the pilgrimage with her father when she was ten and has now done it 35 times, always barefoot.

"I'm praying for peace in Northern Ireland," said Eamonn Brady, a 60-year-old rural postman from Co Mayo who had just completed his 33rd ascent in a suit and tie. "Penance, penance, penance," said John Moran, a labourer in gumboots, when asked why he did it. Mr Moran, another veteran, had got up at 3am and started walking at 5.30.

Back at the bottom, it was only 9.30am, but Campbell's Bar was packed. The mud-splattered pilgrims were offered free Bibles, and asked to sign petitions against abortion and Third World debt. Lines of trinket stalls sold Croagh Patrick rock, plastic toy cameras and pictures of the Virgin Mary. A palm reader had set up shop in a caravan, and hordes of new arrivals were creating traffic chaos.

For most this was their one day's penance of the year. However, the really hardy could now head north to Co Donegal and an island in the middle of Lough Derg, called St Patrick's Purgatory, where for three days, pilgrims fast, walk barefoot and deprive themselves of sleep.



Many were warmly dressed, others wore T-shirts

Teenager survives 70ft fall down cliff

By Adam Prescott

A TEENAGER who fell 70ft down a jagged cliff face into a river had to cling to the bank for four hours in freezing waters before being rescued.

Robert Milton, 17, was walking along a pathway in woods near the village of Invermoriston alongside Loch Ness with a girlfriend after a party when it collapsed. He fell into the River Moriston and in spite of suffering back and shoulder injuries he managed to swim to the riverbank but was unable to lift himself out of the water.

Friends who had been enjoying an open-air party at Invermoriston campsite called the emergency services at 1.30am on Sunday. Thick bushes and trees below the steep, over-hanging ledge made the rescue treacherous and police, fire, and ambulance personnel were unable to reach him.

Eventually Mike Woodbridge, a doctor, managed to abseil to Robert before members of Dundonnell Mountain Rescue Team arrived to hoist him to safety. Robert, from Fort Augustus, Highland, was taken to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness suffering from hypothermia.

Mr Woodbridge, 30, an experienced climber, said: "It was a tiny piece of riverbank and he couldn't get out of the water. He told me he had bounced a couple of times before ending up in the water. There are so many jagged rocks and boulders, it seems he was really lucky to have hit bushes on the way down."

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Hospital chiefs suspend nurse in deaths inquiry

A HOSPITAL has suspended the male nurse at the centre of an investigation into several suspicious deaths and an alleged indecent assault.

Neil Harvey, 53, is suspected of administering fatal doses of drugs to up to five seriously ill patients and of indecently assaulting a male patient at the Birch Hill Hospital in Rochdale, Lancashire.

It is understood that a team of 12 police has set up an incident room in the hospital and interviewed up to 70 staff. The detectives have also looked at patient records and will call on scientific experts to check drug treatments administered by Mr Harvey.

The hospital is also auditing its dispensary to see which drugs, in what quantities, were given to the patients. They are believed to be concentrating on the supply of painkillers, sedatives and tranquilisers.

The hospital's senior administrator denied yesterday that up to five deaths were considered suspicious. However, Robert Clegg, the chief executive of the Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust, said he was concerned about allegations of "inappropriate use of drugs".

"I am horrified at the reference to five suspicious deaths because I am not aware of any as such," he said.

Mr Harvey refused to discuss the inquiry last night. Speaking at his home in Rochdale, Mr Harvey, who has worked in the health

Police are looking into claims of fatal drug doses at a Lancashire hospital, reports

Paul Wilkinson

service for 30 years, said: "I have been told by my employer and the Royal College of Nursing to say nothing publicly."

Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust first formally considered the latest allegations against Mr Hartley more than a week ago, but police were not notified until late last week. Last night police emphasised that the investigation was at an early stage and was not a murder inquiry.

Detective Superintendent Bob Huntbach, who is leading the inquiry, said: "Allegations of improprieties by a nurse have been made. Further details will be released at the conclusion of the inquiry."

A spokesman for the Royal College of Nursing, which represents Mr Harvey, said the suspended nurse was co-operating fully with the investigation. The spokesman said: "Our concern is to make sure that our member gets a fair hearing, but also that we look after the quality of patient

care. If there are any issues over patient care there has to be an investigation.

"He has not been arrested, charged or even questioned, and in fact he has not been told formally what the allegations against him are. He is aware of rumours, but maintains they are without foundation. Given the serious nature of the allegations, it is right that he should be suspended."

The initial investigation began after a male patient aged in his 30s complained in January last year that he had been sexually assaulted by Mr Harvey in the Medical Admissions unit. Mr Harvey was suspended, but later returned to work.

However, the hospital inquiry prompted further complaints from other staff about the nurse's treatment of patients. Early last month he was suspended again and the Greater Manchester Police were called in.



Morris minor: seven-year-old Matthew Cull, with his father, John, shows the strain after getting up early yesterday to join the gathering of Morris men in Exeter before embarking on a procession to the cathedral

Boy dies of meningitis at French camp site

By A CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH boy who died of meningitis in France was named last night as Matthew Scott, aged five. The child, from the Newcastle area, died in hospital in Nantes on Saturday night.

More than 70 youngsters have been vaccinated against the disease at a camp site in northern France where Matthew and his family stayed last week. Yesterday Marie-Therese Ellart, the director of the camp site, Les Ajoncs, at Audresselles, near Boulogne-sur-Mer, said: "He will have brought the disease with him, perhaps from England. It takes several days to show symptoms. The vaccination programme was purely preventive."

The family travelled on from Audresselles to a camp site on the coast of the Loire-Atlantique region. Its identity has not been released.

In Britain, the National Meningitis Trust said the risk to people who had been on holiday in the area was "absolutely minimal".

Patients hype pain for court cases

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MALINGERING patients are costing the health service huge amounts of money, according to a survey by a specialist in medico-legal cases.

Neville Kay, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon from Sheffield, analysed 50 cases. In 84 per cent of them the patients were suing employers over work-related injuries and in a further 14 per cent they were suing over road-accident injuries. In all, 34 per cent were claiming state benefits.

Mr Kay was involved as medical assessor for the defence in 45 cases and for the prosecution in five cases. According to his examination, 42 of the 50 patients were exaggerating their disability. He was able to obtain an assessment by the other side's medical adviser in 27 cases, which

concluded that only two of the patients were exaggerating.

Hospital clinics, which examined all the patients, came to the conclusion that 44 per cent were exaggerating. Mr Kay suggests in the *Journal of the Care of the Injured* that the hospitals, being disinterested in the legal process, were most likely to have an objective assessment.

Covert video evidence was obtained in 20 per cent of the cases and in every one the patient was found to be malingering or grossly exaggerating the symptoms. Costings for the treatment of the patients showed that, in 18 cases, medical expenses were about £100, in 12 cases up to £1,000 and in ten cases over £1,000. No details were available for the other ten patients.

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Police advance of talk i

Richard Ford
to intelligence-

PRISONERS are providing police with thousands of bits of information about crime each year after an overhaul of the handling of intelligence gathered inside jails.

Every prison now has a full-time police liaison officer whose job is to work much closer with local police forces. The liaison officer is a key point within the jail, collating information gathered from cell wings, overheard on mobile phones, or discovered in correspondence.

The success of the new system was shown in 1995 in Enfield and Waltham, which have thwarted a number of crimes and avoided the arrest of a bank robbery dealer in West London after a tip-off from prison officers at Wormwood Scrubs jail in South London. In another incident, police recovered shoplifted handbags in a house after an armed robber in Prison was overheard on the telephone instructing his wife to get rid of the weapons.

Up to 50,000 items of intelligence now flow from sources within jails including information from informers recruited by the Prison Service and other evidence overheard by alert prison officers.

A Prison Service spokesman said that the change had been made after it had been recognised that a potential source of intelligence about crime was being neglected.

He said: "What used to happen was that police intelligence concerned itself with things going on inside the jail. We did not necessarily pass on information about crime outside it. We concentrated on crime and incidents within our establishments."

PRUDENTIAL



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Police take advantage of loose talk in jails

Richard Ford on a new approach to intelligence-gathering in prison

PRISONERS are providing police with thousands of items of information about crime each year after an overhaul of the handling of intelligence gathered inside jails.

Every prison now has a full-time police liaison officer whose job is to work more closely with local police forces. The liaison officer is a focal point within the jail, collating information gathered from cell wings, overheard on telephones or discovered in correspondence.

The success of the new system adopted in 135 jails in England and Wales is said to have thwarted a number of crimes and includes the arrest of a gang of drug dealers in West Yorkshire after a tip-off from prison officers at Wormwood Scrubs jail in South London. In another incident police recovered shotguns hidden in a house after an armed robber in Preston prison was overheard on the telephone instructing his wife to get rid of the weapons.

Up to 100,000 items of intelligence now flow from sources within jails, including information from informers recruited by the Prison Service and other evidence overheard by alert prison officers.

A Prison Service spokesman said that the change had been made after it had been recognised that a potential source of intelligence about crime was being neglected.

He said: "What used to happen was that prison intelligence concerned itself only with things going on inside the jail. We did not necessarily pass on information about crime outside jail. We concentrated on crime and incidents within our establishments."

He said that, under the new system, police had greater access to prison intelligence.

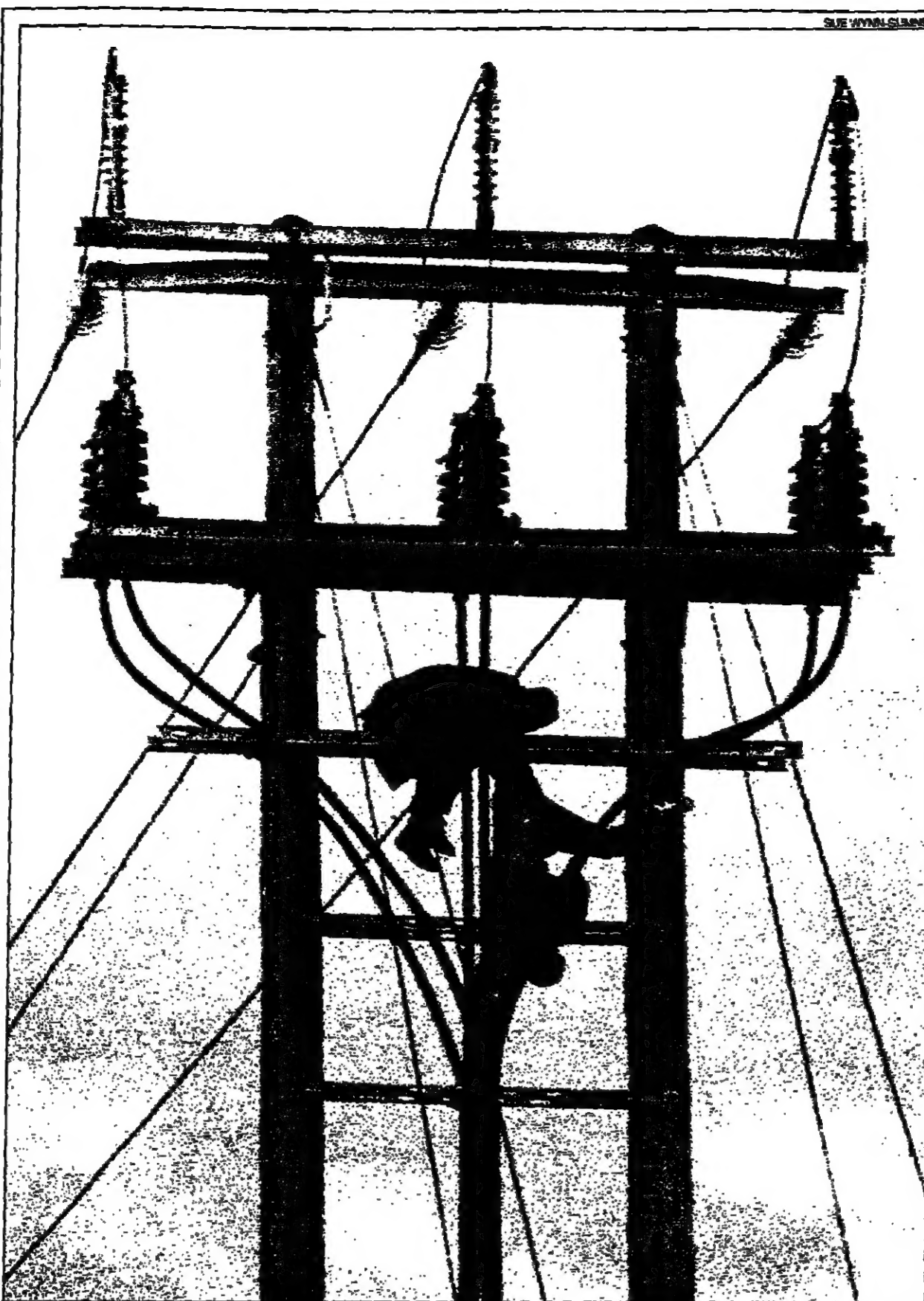
The Prison Service has long had informants among offenders in custody but unlike police informers they are not paid. Instead they are rewarded with additional privileges such as extra visits or a move to a jail nearer to their homes and families.

Prisoners addicted to drugs are not getting the help they need to stop them going back to hard drugs when they are released, a cross-party parliamentary report says. Levels of care for drug abusers were described as appalling both inside jail and on release, while little or no effort was being made to tackle categories of prisoner most likely to be in jail on drug offences.

The Parliamentary Drugs Misuse Group said inmates were being driven to drugs by boredom and overcrowding. Its report described efforts to stop the flow of drugs at some prisons as nothing more than "half-hearted".

Young offender institutions and women's prisons had no less of a drug problem with levels of intimidation and bullying "over and above" those in other institutions. The report said official statistics on the number of prisoners testing positive for drugs were probably under-estimating the level of misuse.

In a list of recommendations, the report calls for drug offenders to be sent more often on treatment courses rather than to jail, and for better training for prison staff. More testing facilities were needed, as well as national guidelines to reduce the supply of drugs entering prisons.



Dave Bennett clings to Lee Finch's belt as he dangles from the pylon after receiving a 33,000-volt shock

Pylon man survives a 33,000-volt shock

By A CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who survived a 33,000-volt electric shock dangled semi-conscious from a pylon for more than half an hour, held up only by a friend's grip on his belt.

Lee Finch, 21, suffered burns to 60 per cent of his body and was left hanging 40ft above the ground after suffering the shock while climbing the pylon in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, with a friend on Friday night.

Mr Finch, from Monkmoor, near Shrewsbury, came into contact with the current as he neared the top of the pylon. He collapsed backwards, hanging by his legs and barely conscious.

Dave Bennett, 22, who was climbing the pylon with him, grabbed his belt. He encouraged Mr Finch to hold on, and kept talking to him to stop him from passing out.

Mr Bennett shouted to a passer-by for help, then held his friend until emergency services reached the field near Weir Hill and turned off the power.

Mr Finch was taken to Royal Shrewsbury Hospital before being flown to the trauma unit at Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham with burns to his left arm, stomach and groin. He was in a critical condition yesterday. Mr Bennett suffered shock and minor burns to his head and neck.

Station Officer Andy Bates, who led the fire crews, said they had to call the electricity board and wait for the power to be turned off before they could rescue the men.

"The two men were just one metre from the conductors. Once the power had been turned off we hitched a line to the pylon, although we were warned there might still be residual current within the source," he said.

"It was a bit awkward with one man hanging by one leg, trapped around a metal bar, so we put a line around him and lowered him down to the ground."

NEWS IN BRIEF

**Army cadet
is killed
on coach**

An army cadet was killed when he put his head out of a coach skylight and hit a bridge. Stephen Adair, 18, from Stamford Bridge, East Yorkshire, died in Holland as a 40-strong party of cadets was returning from a visit to the Green Howards' headquarters in Osnabruck, Germany. An army spokesman said: "The Army would like to express its regret at this fatality." It would co-operate with a Dutch police inquiry.

Microlight crash

A pilot and his passenger were killed when their microlight crashed into a field near Little Carlton, Lincolnshire. The unnamed men, believed to be from the Louth area, were pronounced dead at the scene.

Tractor death

A youth aged 16 was crushed to death when the tractor he was driving overturned. The accident happened on common land at Nanpean, near St Austell, Cornwall, on Saturday afternoon. The victim has not been named.

Hillwalker dies

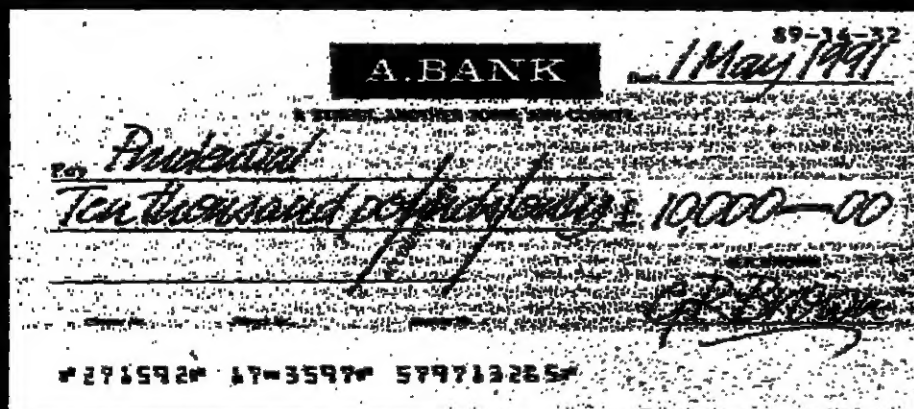
A woman fell to her death while walking with her teenage son and daughter on the 2,009ft Stac Pollaidh in the West Highlands. Janet Matthews, 52, a nurse from Cawdor, near Nairn, was an experienced hillwalker.

Body found

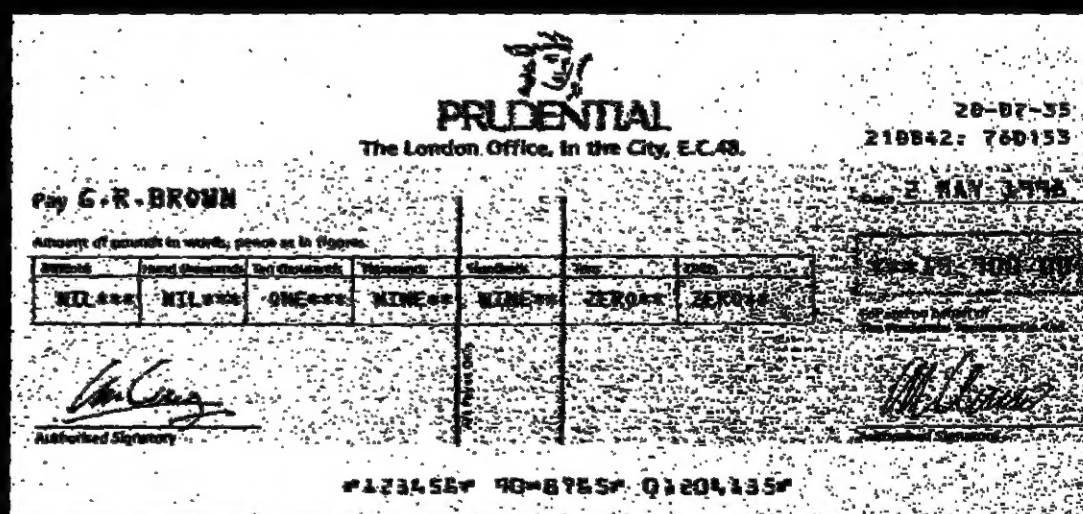
Police are investigating the discovery of a man's body in an industrial tank at commercial premises in Cambridge. The man was found in the 6ft by 5ft tank at 11.20am yesterday. His name has not been released.

Diana sale halted

The auction in Australia of an evening dress worn by Diana, Princess of Wales, at a bicentennial function for *The Times* in 1985, was halted after a dispute over import duties forced the owner to withdraw it.

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WORLD IN BRIEF

When the stories of Mr Clinton's alleged affair with Ms Lewinsky first surfaced in January, he promised Ameri-

President Clinton with US Navy officers at the weekend commissioning of *USS Harry S. Truman*, a new nuclear-powered aircraft carrier

By BRONWEN MADDUX

DOCTORS were yesterday

charged with killing two police officers and injuring a local woman, was in serious condition after emergency

Weston: told CIA that Clinton was a clone

surgery for gunshot wounds inflicted by one of the officers before he died.

Yesterday more details emerged about the incident and the background of the gunman, a schizophrenic from a remote town in Montana. He fired only three of the six bullets in his revolver and was carrying some extra ammunition.

Police who searched his abandoned truck after the incident found lengthy delusional writings, but no evidence that he was connected to right-wing anti-government groups in his home state.

According to *Newsweek* magazine, the authorities became aware that he could pose a threat two years ago, when he drove to the CIA and demanded an interview to "report stuff". He told the CIA that President Clinton was "a clone" and had arranged the assassination of President

Kennedy because he had stolen Mr Clinton's girlfriend, Marilyn Monroe.

As a result of the shooting, support grew yesterday for a new underground multi-million-dollar visitors' centre which would strengthen security checks on people visiting the Capitol.

But in the flood of words pouring out from members of Congress in the wake of the shooting, two are noticeably

absent: gun control. No one is suggesting curbing the right of Americans to carry guns; the focus yesterday was simply on preventing armed people getting close to their elected representatives.

Trent Lott, leader of the Republican majority in the Senate, said: "The security system worked." He added: "This is America. We're not going to let one crazy person drive us into a lockbox."

Lisbon: The UN mission overseeing Angola's peace process said that freshly laid landmines were hampering its attempts to investigate a massacre in which up to 200 villagers are believed to have been killed in an attack in a diamond-mining village about 250 miles east of Luanda.

Survivors allege the attackers were from Unita, but the guerrilla group — which signed a peace pact with the Government in 1994 to end a two-decade civil war — denied the accusations. Government sources indicated that 215 people had been killed in the attack and 70 wounded. (AP)

Tbilisi: Niko Lekishvili, the Georgian State Minister and top minister in the political hierarchy under President Shevardnadze, has resigned, the first step in an expected far-reaching government shake-up. Mr Lekishvili, who coordinated the work of ministries within a system in which there is no Prime Minister, said that Mr Shevardnadze had accepted the resignation. (Reuters) **Leading article, page 21**

Tokyo: Police launched an investigation into suspected mass murder after dozens of people ate curry and rice contaminated with cyanide at a local festival in western Japan. Four victims died and 60 were being treated in hospital. Police flooded the small community of Wakayama, 250 miles west of Tokyo, with 150 extra officers. *(Reuters)*

Seoul: In a prelude to a probable rise to the presidency, Kim Jong Il, North Korea's leader, was elected with about 670 others to the one-chamber parliament. Less than an hour after voting ended, the official Korean Central News Agency announced the election of Mr Kim. 56, to the Supreme People's Assembly, the rubber-stamp legislature. (AP)

Bangkok: Unemployment in crisis-hit Thailand has worsened with about 2,000 workers losing their jobs daily since the beginning of this month, a local newspaper reported. Trairong Suwankhiri, the Labour Minister, as saying. Jobs were being lost through businesses closing due to the current economic turmoil. (Reuters)

Prague: Vaclav Havel, right, the Czech President, underwent four hours of surgery at a military hospital to help him recover full use of his intestine, the CTK agency reported. Mr Havel, 61, is expected to spend two to three weeks in hospital, followed by about six weeks convalescing at home. (AFP)

Helsinki: Divers who salvaged alcohol from a wreck in the Baltic found that the 92-year-old champagne was still bubbling. But the cognac was a disappointment and appeared to be just undistilled grape mash. The *Jonkoping* had been lying on the seabed off Finland since 1916, when a German U-boat sank it. (AP)

Spielberg's war wins US hearts and minds

**FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES**

DRAWN by breathless reviews and the sheer power of Steven Spielberg's reputation, Americans flocked at the weekend to his latest offering, a harrowing war epic that opens with what one critic has called "quite possibly the greatest combat sequence ever filmed".

Saving Private Ryan, well during and after D-Day, was expected to earn at least \$25 million (£16 million) in its first three days on general release. It is likely to be remembered longer as the first film to attempt to capture the full horror and chaos of an event Hollywood has hitherto treated as the crowning triumph of the last "good" war.

The scale of the release — on 3,600 screens complete with bold early forecasts of an Oscar sweep — appears for once to have been matched by its impact on audiences. All that was missing, one veteran has said after seeing it, was "the odour of cordite and the sickening stench of death".

The film tells the story of a motley platoon's mission to rescue one soldier from behind enemy lines after officials learn that his mother is about to be told that her three other sons have died in action.

It opens with a 24-minute re-enactment of the US attack on Omaha Beach, filmed last year with 3,000 extras on a remote stretch of the Cotentin coast in Ireland.

The *New York Times* commented: "This film simply looks at war as if war had not been looked at before."

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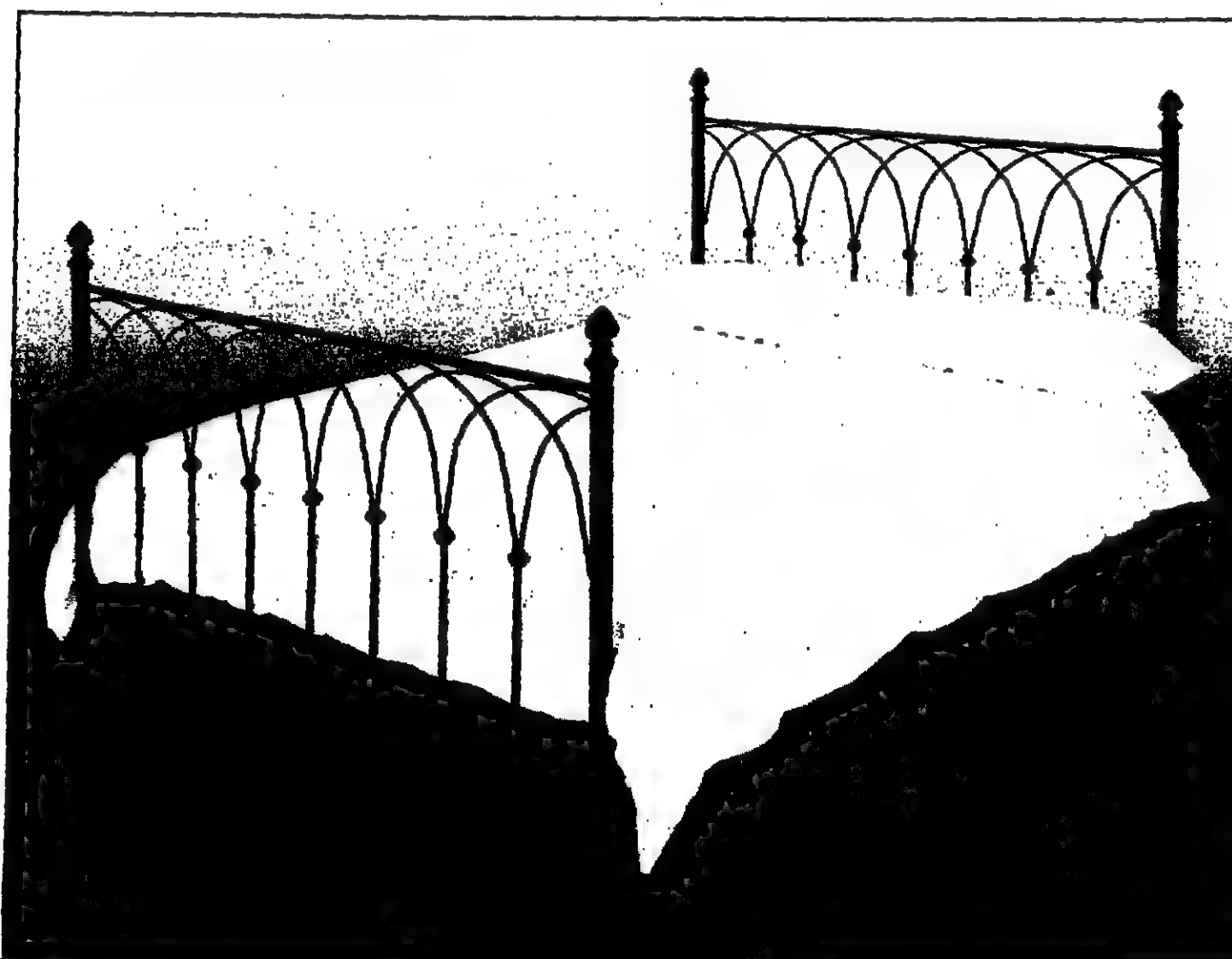
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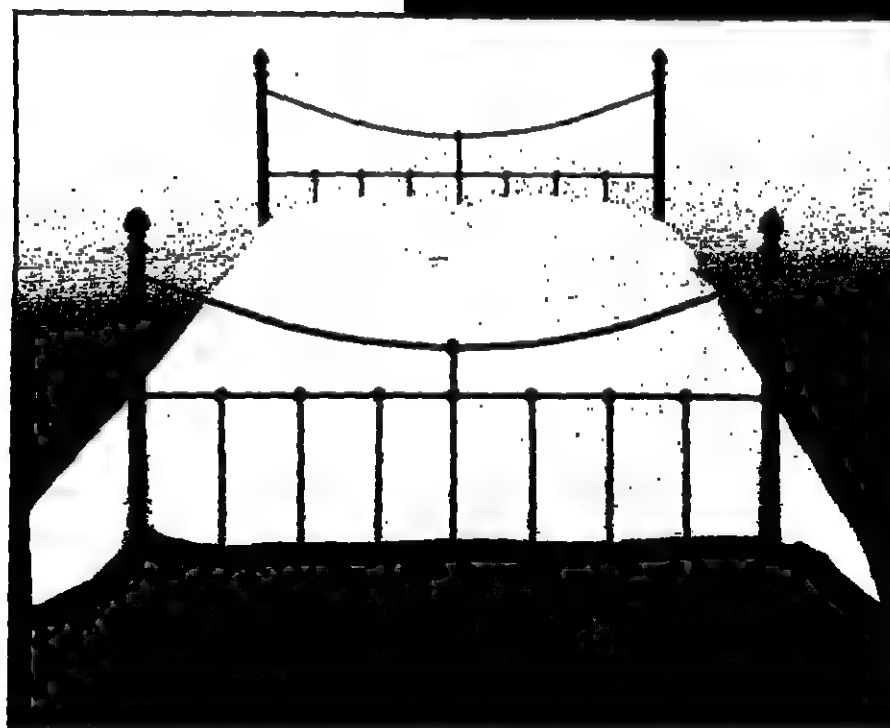
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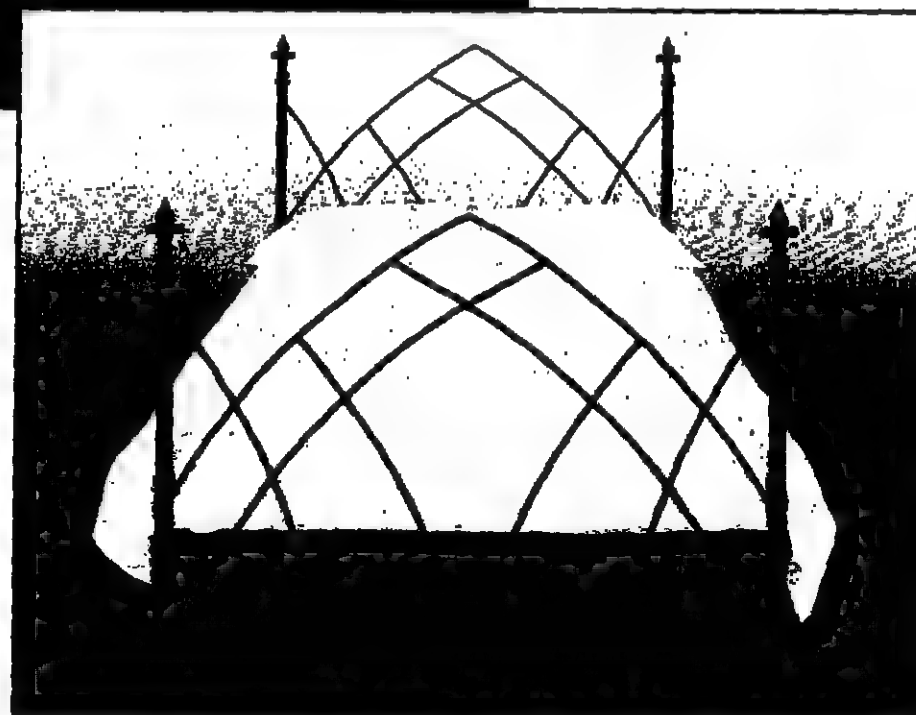
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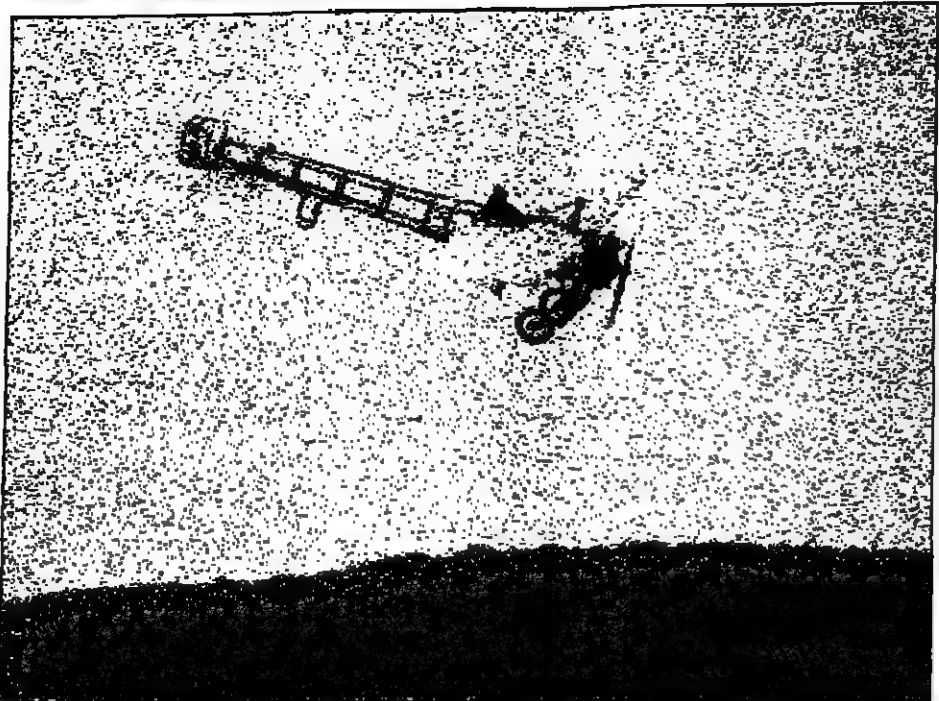
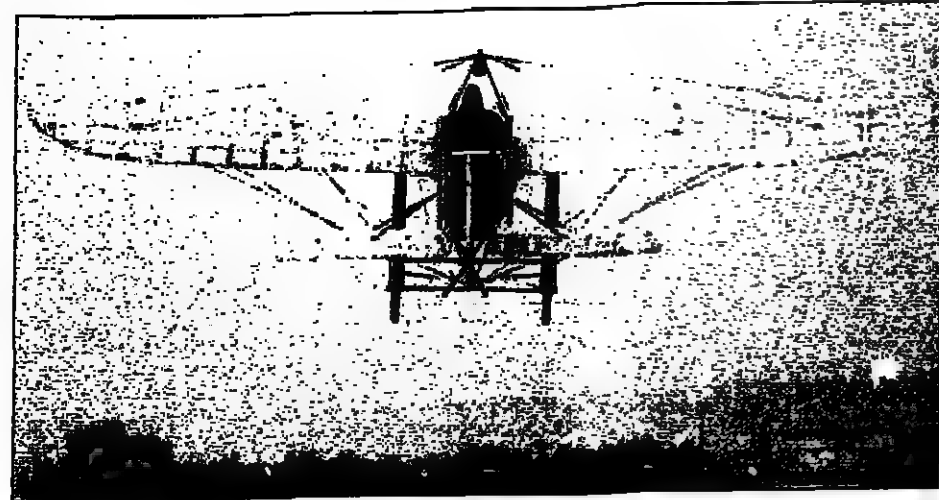
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History takes a dive for Blériot grandson

CHRIS EADES



The elderly Type XI monoplaner takes off at dawn yesterday, top, before going into a dive less than a minute later, leaving the latter-day M Blériot cooling his heels amid the wreckage of his aircraft in a lake near Calais

Louis Blériot's bid to reenact the inaugural cross-Channel flight of his grandfather and namesake, the great French aviator, ended in damp humiliation yesterday after he was forced to ditch in a lake just moments after take-off (Ben Macintyre and Eve Ann Prentice write).

M Blériot, a 54-year-old banker who took up flying ten years ago, set off at dawn from Calais airport in one of three surviving Blériot monoplanes, hoping to repeat his grandfather's 1909 feat by landing on the white cliffs of Dover.

The flimsy Type XI plane got only a few hundred yards and remained airborne for little more than a minute before splash-landing in the

lake. M Blériot sat on his partly submerged aircraft until being rescued. He was unhurt and the plane was pulled from the lake with a broken right wing. He said it could be repaired. "It is very disappointing. As soon as I started to bank, the plane did not respond normally. I cannot explain why."

Arnaud Hentute, a film director, who had confidently predicted the flight would be a success, said: "Lots of people who have tried to cross the Channel in old-fashioned planes have ended up in the water. Crossing like this is almost as complicated as going to walk on the Moon."

From the start, the latter-day M Blériot was flying in the

face of overwhelming odds. At 54, he is 17 years older than his grandfather was when he became the first person to fly the Channel. His weight is also crucial in the flimsy Type XI which weighs just 525lb and which he bought from the Shuttleworth air museum in Bedfordshire 20 years ago.

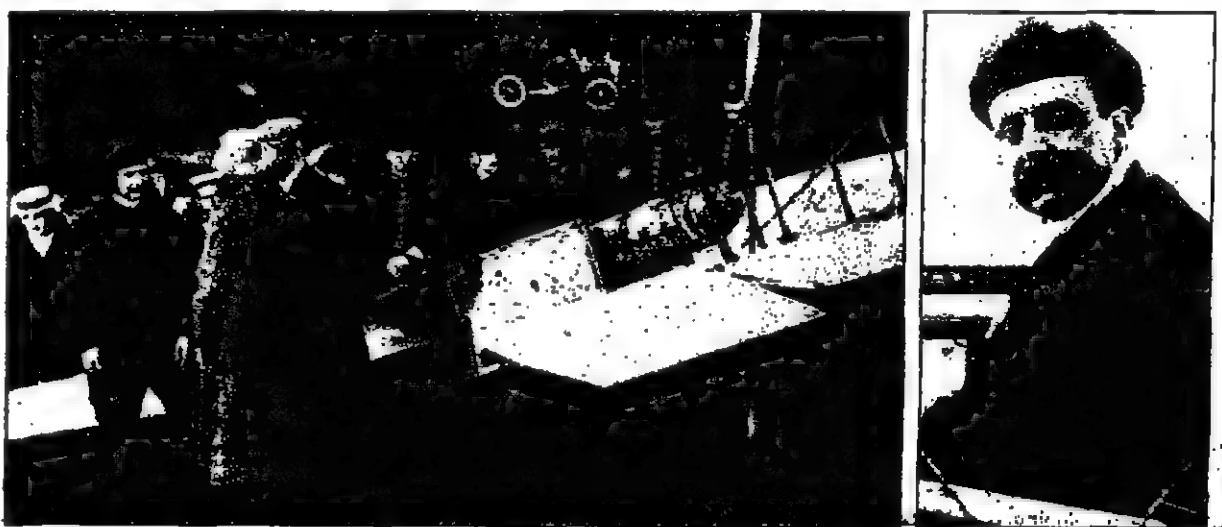
Nine years ago, on an 80th anniversary attempt to recreate the flight, a petite 7st 10lb English pilot, Gloria Pullen, had to be pulled from the sea three miles short of Dover when the aeroplane lost power. The original Blériot weighed 12st and his grandson is just two pounds lighter.

The wood-and-wire Blériot Type XI with a three-cylinder engine was one of only three

airworthy models known to remain of the 800 built and M Blériot was not able to fly it in training for fear of over-stressing the ancient aircraft.

To fly the aircraft, pilots must master a technique known as wing warping — where the wires attached to the wings are manipulated by foot pedals. The Wright brothers pioneered the system.

In 1909, Blériot's aircraft was towed to the take-off field by a white horse. After asking his engineer "which way to Dover?", the aviator took off, headed out to sea and quickly became disoriented. Eventually, the cliffs of Dover emerged through the haze. The aircraft made an ungainly landing which broke the front struts.



The original Louis Blériot after his ungainly Dover landing in 1909 at the end of his cross-Channel flight

Advertisement Feature

It's worth shopping around for mortgage protection

Protect the roof over your family's head

Mortgage protection is one of the most straightforward and affordable types of life insurance cover. It's designed to pay off your mortgage if you die — and so protect the roof over your family's head.

Buying your own home will probably be your biggest investment, so having cover that provides a tax-free sum to repay your mortgage if you die will certainly give you great peace of mind. In fact, most mortgage lenders may insist you have life insurance. But you don't have to accept their offer of cover. Like many things in life, it could really pay to shop around before you buy.

For instance, you could take a look at Zurich Municipal's mortgage protection policy. Part

of Europe's third largest insurance group, they can arrange cover for you from just £5 a month. It's all done over the phone in minutes. Their policies provide great value for money and they don't pay their staff commission — which means no pressured selling. And just by working in the public sector, you are entitled to a special 15% discount.

When Graham Powell, who has a career in the public sector, changed from an endowment to a repayment mortgage, he was required to take out mortgage protection. After receiving a quote from his mortgage lender, Graham decided to phone around for some alternative quotes. He was delighted to discover that he could save

nearly £90 a year if he took out the policy with Zurich Municipal. Over the 18-year period of cover, this certainly adds up to a significant saving.

Graham, from Corsham, Wiltshire, is married to Jane and has a young son, Tom. With a busy lifestyle, he found taking out a policy with Zurich Municipal extremely easy. He says: "The person on the end of the phone was very friendly and efficient, and the quote only took a few minutes. I was also very happy to discover I could have a 15% discount because of my job, which meant the premium was the cheapest one I found. I would certainly recommend Zurich Municipal to my friends and family."

From the tables you can see for yourself how economical it is to choose Zurich Municipal for mortgage protection.

Female, married, non-smoking public sector employee with 20 year mortgage protection cover

SUM ASSURED		
AGE	£50,000	£75,000
25	£5.15	£6.72
35	£6.55	£8.53
45	£12.21	£17.31

Male, married, non-smoking public sector employee with 20 year mortgage protection cover

SUM ASSURED		
AGE	£50,000	£75,000
25	£7.19	£9.78
35	£8.11	£11.19
45	£17.85	£25.78

Examples shown include public sector discount. Monthly premiums are dependent on a number of factors and in particular are higher for males, smokers and older ages. Cover and premiums are subject to individual assessment.

Apart from mortgage protection, Zurich Municipal also offers term assurance, which provides straight life cover without any connection to your mortgage. They can also cover you for critical illness, so that you would receive a lump sum if one of a range of specific illnesses was diagnosed.

All round, Zurich Municipal is well worth considering for insurance cover. Why not phone them on 0800 147 147 — it's free. Their helpful staff are ready to take your call from 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. Please quote the reference TME2701.



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Election day attack by Khmer Rouge

Phnom Penh: Remnants of the Khmer Rouge launched a bloody election day attack yesterday, but otherwise millions of Cambodians voted peacefully after a campaign marked in its earlier stages by violence and intimidation (James Pringle writes).

Although counting does not begin until today, indications

were that Hun Sen, Cambodia's leader, may have received a setback in his bid to legitimise the absolute power he seized a year ago. A coalition with his former enemies again looks inevitable. Seven civilians and two soldiers were killed in the pre-dawn guerrilla attack on a government position near

Anlong Veng, the former Khmer Rouge headquarters in northern Cambodia, but the attackers were driven off. Hun Sen called the election a "victory for democracy" and said he expected to win, but added that he would step down and swiftly hand over power if his former communist Cambodian People's Par-

ty (CPP) did not gain victory. Some foreign diplomats were sceptical that he would hand over power so easily. Analysts said the most likely outcome was a coalition, with the CPP again sharing power with the royalist FUNCINPEC party of Prince Norodom Ranariddh which it ousted by military force last year.

Ex-spy to take over Russian security

FROM MICHAEL BRYNIN IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin has sacked the head of Russia's intelligence service, appointing in his place a man who had previously been a KGB spy in Germany.

Emerging from his holiday retreat among the birch groves of Karelia, he gave no reason for the abrupt dismissal of Nikolai Kovalyov as head of the Federal Security Service, the successor to the KGB. But in a bizarre woodland press conference he said only that he kept a close check on what was going on and monitored his ministers' performance all the time.

"You do not necessarily know why someone is dismissed. You tend to think that he is a nice man because he shaves daily," he told journalists, while Sergei Kiriyenko, his youthful Prime Minister, looked on bemused at the logic.

"I know what he is doing, of every case, of every crime, solved or not," Mr Yeltsin said. "A decision to dismiss may seem illogical and incomprehensible, but I make one when I cannot tolerate the situation any longer."

In place of the hapless Mr Kovalyov, an energetic administrator who gave regular briefings and set up a hotline for Russians to report anyone they suspected of feeding intelligence to foreigners, Mr Yeltsin appointed Vladimir Putin, 45, a law graduate from St Petersburg, who speaks fluent German and began working for the KGB in 1975.

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New research suggests our genes do not tell everything about the way we are, says Anjana Ahuja

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The nature of nurture

New research suggests our genes do not tell everything about the way we are, says
Anjana Ahuja

Robert Plomin shakes his head as he picks through his salad and admits he is embarrassed. "It's unbelievable. Everywhere we look, we find that genes have a substantial influence. I'm embarrassed by how important genetics is turning out to be."

This is a peculiar thing for him to say, because Professor Plomin is one of the most eminent behavioural geneticists in the world. Even if you haven't heard his name, you will know of his research.

Previously based at the University of Colorado and now deputy director of the Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Research Centre at the Institute of Psychiatry in London, his achievements include the discovery of a gene for intelligence (or, more correctly, a gene which accounts for a tiny fraction of the variation in intelligence). It was revealed last week that his team of researchers had found a gene for language ability in young children.

You might have thought this would plant him firmly on the nature side of the nature v nurture debate in the discussion of how genes and environment shape individual personality. But Professor Plomin adopts an unexpected stance. He thinks the pendulum has swung too far in his favour: "Once, everybody thought environment was all-important, and the only thing that mattered was the way you were brought up. Then behavioural genetics came along and it seemed that genes was everything and environment was nothing. Actually, environment is terribly important too."

"Take schizophrenia. Identical twins, who have identical genes, have a 50 per cent concordance on the condition. That means that if one twin develops it, the other has a 50 per cent chance of developing it. Since their genes are the same whether they develop schizophrenia or not, it must be to do with environment. It's an amazing finding."

Further support for the significance of environment comes from a new study by Professor Plomin of 720 American families, each featuring a mother, father and two adolescent children. According to conventional belief, children brought up in the same home share the same environment. So one would expect natural brothers and sisters to share



Mother nature's child? New research indicates that environment has a significant role to play in our development

many traits. However, they can be poles apart in personality. But Professor Plomin and his colleagues discovered that the issue of environment was more complex than previously thought. For one thing, it turned out that parents often treated each child differently, or were perceived as treating each child differently. This implied that each child in the family was being nurtured in a slightly different environment. "For example, some adoles-

cents felt their parents were more antagonistic to them than to their brother or sister. So you think: This explains why one child develops antisocial behaviour." But when you see a video of the parent and child together, you realise the parent is reacting to the child's aggressive behaviour. How can a parent be loving when their child is acting like a jerk? Genes are affecting the family environment."

It raises the possibility that people choose or shape their surroundings according to their genes. This has led Professor Plomin to think about nature v nurture not as a tug-of-war between disparate influences but as part of one phenomenon. He has renamed it the "nature of nurture".

Professor Plomin also thinks that experiences outside the home for each sibling may be significant in moulding character traits. "It's a shot in the arm for the environmentalists. It opens up opportunities for studying gene-environment correlations."

Some might suggest that, if environment is so important, why should we pour in millions of pounds teasing out genetic influences, especially if individual genes have such minuscule effects?

"Behavioural genetics is a scientific target but it's also a practical target," he says. For example, society could provide preventive therapy for those at risk from alcoholism or drug abuse. "Alcoholism wrecks lives. But we wait to see who develops it and then step in with cures that don't work. If we have the genetic markers, we should use them to alleviate suffering. Preventive medicine is the future."

The concerns raised over possible pre-natal testing to screen out certain diseases do not bother him unduly. "When the amniocentesis test was developed, people thought it was the end of the world. But women chose to have it. Why would

a woman do it unless she was prepared to contemplate abortion? If mothers were selecting for certain traits, that would be dodgy."

What about discrimination by employers and insurance companies against those found to be at risk of developing disease? "That would not be ethical but I am sure we will have laws to protect against it."

He thinks most people, provided there are preventive treatments available, would prefer to know their genetic destiny, despite the drawbacks. He also objects to the idea that geneticists are part of a right-wing conspiracy to engage in dodgy social engineering. (Professor Plomin, who grew up in inner-city Chicago, is a Labour supporter.)

He elects not to study topics such as the differences in intelligence across race and class. "I'm too chicken to do stuff like that," he says. What especially bugs him is when the word "Nazi" is mentioned in the same breath as behavioural genetics, as happened on the Today programme last week. "Some of the media seem to want to protect the public from the wicked scientists," he sighs. "It's a very condescending view and I am willing to bet that the man in the street isn't that worried."

"Geneticists have this anecdote about parents, which I think has a measure of truth about it: when parents have one child, they think the kid's behaviour is down to how they are bringing them up. When they have a second child and they start noticing big personality differences, they begin believing in genetics."

In a way, he says, the ethical concerns surrounding the field of behavioural genetics constitute a badge of honour. "All great advances in science have problems," Professor Plomin reflects. "So it's terrific that we have given ethicists so much to think about."

Beetles amass chemical weapons

PUPAE of the squash beetle have been found to possess a most commendable talent. Unable to fly or crawl, a pupa fends off predators by exuding nasty chemicals from hairs on its body. But that is not all — further inspection revealed that as time progressed, the oily secretions changed structure. It means that somewhere inside the beetle is a chemical arms factory churning out lots of different chemical defences using one set of chemical building blocks. That makes the squash beetle the first known exponent of natural "combinatorial chemistry", according to some experts.

Pharmaceutical companies already invest in combinatorial techniques because playing around with the building blocks of one successful drug might throw up another useful compound. The technique — a kind of chemical Lego — can even be carried out on computer and the properties of the simulated chemical deduced in theory.

The discovery that the squash beetle is another fan of the combinatorial method came when Frank Schroder, a postdoctoral student at Cornell University, noticed that ants attacking a pupa would beat a rapid retreat and try to clean off the secretion. Deciding to analyse the liquid in more detail using nuclear magnetic resonance, liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry, he found it contained a bunch of complex, large-ring polyamines, which were themselves composed of simpler units. He deduced that the pupa had linked up the units in random or-



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Anjana Ahuja

der. When several versions were reconstructed in the laboratory, they did indeed repel ants.

The compounds linger in the droplets because they are too heavy to evaporate. But the chemical capers continue even after secretion. After a while, some of the rings spontaneously rearrange their chemical bonds so the structure changes slightly. All the while, the pupa is pumping out more new chemicals. So, as time passes, the pupa is concocting a progressively more varied mixture of repellents.

It is possible that the beetles evolved this useful defence because multiple chemicals are better at thwarting attackers than just one. "It could be that the beetle doesn't know how to control the process, that it's sloppy," Jerrold Meinwald, who supervised the research, told Science magazine recently. Others believe it doesn't matter whether the beetle knows what it is doing. "It's really pretty nifty for evolution to have come up with this way of upping chemical diversity," says Thomas Eisner, a co-author.

There are already suggestions that the chemical secrets of such insects could be exploited to control particularly hardy pests, such as mosquitoes. Entomologists are watching with interest — it is thought that only 5 per cent of insects have been identified, let alone had their chemical secrets unravelled. "I revel in the thought that insects are the great frontier," Eisner adds.

• Nigel Hawkes is away

First unmanned Atlantic crossing?



NEXT month, two model aircraft will attempt the first unmanned flight across the Atlantic. The Aerosondes, built in Australia to collect meteorological data, will retrace the route made famous by Alcock and Brown when they flew non-stop from Newfoundland to Co Galway, Ireland.

The aircraft will be "flown" by a computer-controlled autopilot and will be in radio contact for only the first and last 60 miles.

A third aircraft will be on standby in case the first two fail.

The aircraft have a 10ft wingspan and weigh about 30lb, with fuel making up just less than half the weight. They will cruise at a speed of 50 knots, at an altitude of 5,000-15,000ft.

Engineers supervising the attempt have chosen August because there is only a small chance of gales, and tailwinds are more favourable. If all goes well, the only question is whether the aircraft will exactly replicate the feat of Alcock and Brown by landing in a peat bog.

Flipper comes to aid of divers



THOSE who spend their time exploring shipwrecks will be fascinated by Patent 5,746,631, issued in America recently to a Californian company called Nature's Wing.

It relates to a new design of flipper that, when worn by divers, can reduce oxygen consumption by up to 40 per cent.

The efficiency saving comes from the fact that the flipper looks like a fishtail rather than a duck's webbed foot. The two V-shaped fins on each flipper rotate, propelling the diver through the water. Ankle-rolling is a much less vigorous action than the bent-knee kick, thus reducing the amount of oxygen expended. It also increases speed by 30 per cent, according to its designer, Pete MacCarthy, who ditched his job as a software salesman two years ago to develop his flipper.

Trials by a scuba-testing company suggests that the fishtail design allows divers to reduce oxygen consumption by between 20 and 40 per cent. The patent has already been licensed to several manufacturers and the flippers will be appearing later this summer.

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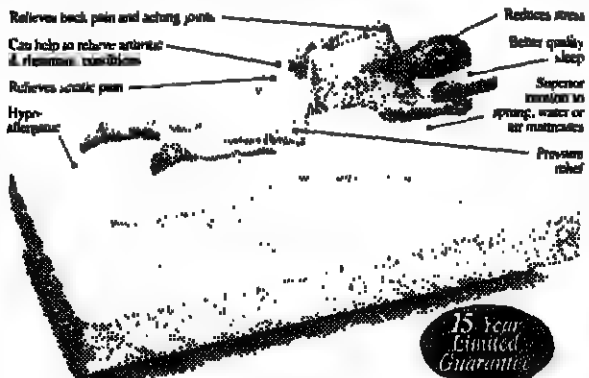
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TOP LEFT: Erin O'Connor in Givenchy's pistachio draped-front dress with white flower embroidery. Feathered headpiece by Philip Treacy.

TOP CENTRE: John Galiano for Christian Dior — 17th-century-style navy wool dress embroidered with Moorish-style antique gold cord and frogging.

TOP RIGHT: Christian Lacroix presents a new, leaner line. A tulle flower-embroidered tulle tunic over long, shocking-pink satin skirt, with a black lace underslip.

MAIN PICTURE: Versace evening gown with sequined cargo pockets.

BOTTOM, FROM LEFT: John Paul Gaultier beaded jacket over a black velvet skirt; Esther Cerasides in Chanel's midnight blue pleated skirt with tulle overskirt and double-layered tulle with abstract "spirograph" embroidery; exquisite little black dress embroidered with jet and sprinkled with feathers, from Ungaro; John Paul Gaultier's Scottish silk are displayed in this Aran sweater and big tartan moiré skirt.



Wild theatrics, endless fantasy — but is there anything to wear in the latest collections? Style Editor Grace Bradberry reports

It is almost two years since the announcement that John Galiano and Alexander McQueen were to take the helm at Christian Dior and Givenchy respectively.

At the time there was much talk that these two British designers would lead a resurgence in the thoroughly French art of haute couture. There has indeed been a resurgence — at least in media interest — but is it really being led by the Brits?

To judge by last week's shows, not really. Galiano and, to a lesser extent, McQueen seem to be off on a trip all of their own. The theatrics were wild, but the point of the clothes was harder to divine.

Last season McQueen seemed finally to get the hang of couture with a serenely beautiful Zen collection. This season he took a step back with the kind of thematic fusion (Catherine the Great in the Amazonian rainforest) that Galiano goes in for.

There were some spectacular show pieces — notably Alek Wek's astonishing cape of forest foliage — but there just didn't seem to be a core of pieces that were both wearable and related to one another.

You could argue, of course, that couture is now a fantasy for everyone rather than a reality for a lucky few women. But part of the fantasy is that "nose-pressed-against-glass" quality that exists only when you can imagine someone, somewhere, wearing the stuff.

That was the problem at Dior, where there appeared to be no directional fashion statement amid the historical pastiche. Thigh boots, Henry the Eighth crosses and Indian Victorian dresses of the kind that missionaries encouraged the natives to wear are all very

well — and they doubtless took hundreds of hours of embroidery in the atelier of Francois Lesage — but what was the point? No one is ever going to wear them again.

In the event, it was actually Jean Paul Gaultier and Karl Lagerfeld, at Chanel, who provided the real couture fantasy this season despite the simplicity of their presentations.

What Gaultier had — which others lacked — was subtlety. His black crepe "trench dress" was a joy to behold; it turned out to be a bolero with epaulettes over a long, impossibly elegant backless dress. A tartan moiré skirt hinted at draughty Scottish castles without going for the full Rob Roy effect, while beaded flowers on jackets were both simultaneously traditional and modern.

But did Gaultier have to use quite so much fur? A full-length dress of the stuff was gratuitously horrid, while a bomber jacket with fox fur lining was tasteless.

Gaultier wasn't the only designer to receive the attentions of the Brigitte Bardot Foundation.

Dior and Givenchy were heaving with chinchilla and mink, while Lacroix showed mink-trimmed shoes and a sable stole.

In other respects Lacroix was a bit more restrained this season — though it's all a question of degree.

The French designer's talk of a stiletto silhouette promised respite for British sensibilities (even if Karl Lagerfeld did use a similar expression four seasons ago), and indeed there were some lean lines and

wonderful Miss Havisham jackets with rags of lace.

Then it all became too much for Lacroix, who made free with the gold fairy dust, rhinestones and billowing Olivia de Havilland satin skirts.

Also in the mood for upholstery was Donatella Versace, who stuffed her collection with horsehair and some copper wire for good measure. The best pieces were the little silk dresses and suits in icy pinks and greens with threads attached, though even they looked a little hairy. Perhaps this hairsuitedness added to the quality of the show. Even when acres of flesh were revealed by dresses

which were long at the front and short at the back, there was none of the frisson of Donatella's ready-to-wear collections.

Having been pressed half to death by the heavy beat of so many shows, I found it actually a joy to attend the Ungaro show, with its long, slim skirts, exquisite little black dresses and sexy, flowery evening wear.

Light-headedness came at last in the Chanel collection, however.

The modernity of his clothes lies in their apparent simplicity, and in the nod towards current trends.

To wear a double-layer dress that looks utterly simple but is, in fact, trimmed with seed pearls is the ultimate luxury, while it's interesting to note that Lagerfeld was virtually the only designer to use modern, abstract embroidery.

The classic suit was reborn again, this time with either pleat skirts or a long, lean, boho silhouette, while the fringing on the pockets echoed more commercial trends.

Historical pageantry is fine, but I know what I'd spend my £20,000 haute couture gift voucher on.

Lacroix made free with gold fairy dust and satin skirts

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The old school tie that makes sense

A poll says school uniforms should be compulsory. Valerie Grove, puts the parents view, Matilda Blyth reflects on her schooldays and Amiel Billetoop speaks for pupils

If David Blunkett ever succeeds in bringing back compulsory school uniforms in State schools, he will score top marks with parents. They have had quite enough of seeing their children going off to school in clothes they found on a skip. He will also prove once again that New Labour can dare to do what the Tories would never have attempted for fear of seeming too elitist, retro and traditionalist.

The NOP poll which suggests that 70 per cent of the public support school uniform, reflects this. After tasting freedom from dress constraints, most people realise that such rules are actually liberating: not having to think about what to put on is one less thing to worry about.

We must assume that Mr Blunkett does not hanker after the Angela Brazil girls' school uniforms of 1920-1980. These emulated menswear — hence the collar, tie and blazer — only stopping short at trousers and pipe. Nothing was more hideous than the serge gym tunic and regulation knicker, expressly designed to repel



In a class of their own: a new poll suggests that most parents and pupils are now in favour of school uniforms

boarders: a garb made ludicrous by St Trinian's and, for some, sexy in porn magazines. Nor, surely, would he oblige lubberly lads to stay in Just William caps and knee-length grey flannel shorts, as some prep schools do even today.

A uniform is a leveller: it stamps you with the image of the institution, makes you conform, suppresses individuality, makes a group into a unit with a corporate identity. But it was only gradually that schools followed prisons, monasteries and armies in dressing everyone alike. Etonian

dress developed out of mourning for George III. Only in this century did an identifiable mode of dress take root and spread to state schools.

By the 1960s, uniforms were seen as divisive: we grammar-school types wore a uniform, while the secondary moderns did not. We had berets and a badge with a Latin motto. The day I took my driving test, in school uniform, the examiner told me that I had passed and added: "You are a North London Collegiate girl I see." I had to confess that I was not. We both wore brown blazers but North London girls wore hats with an idiotic yellow tassel.

In state schools, uniforms went out with the 11-plus as the 1960s progressed. The new comprehensives eschewed them. The backlash happened not just because of the anti-authoritarian 1960s orthodoxy — even Roedean began permitting girls to wear their own clothes in the afternoons — but because the uniforms themselves were silly. Girls were shortening skirts into minis which, coupled with socks, looked worse than before. Several London girls' schools abandoned boxer hats when the police complained about

Le vin is so ordinaire for the French

Twentysomethings now prefer cola to wine, says Simon Rawles

At Café Imprevu, a cosmopolitan hangout near the Pompidou Centre, in Paris, Gilles, 26, and his friends order two beers, a mineral water and an orange juice. "Wine is no longer part of our culture. It is something that belongs to the past," he says. "Most people prefer beer and spirits."

As hard as it may be for France to swallow, the majority of the country's young share the same view. According to a new survey by Onivins, the national wine council, only one in 20 men and women in their early 20s drinks wine daily. More than half claim not to drink it at all, and this in a country where wine has traditionally been considered the source of vitality for everyone over the age of 14. While designer beers and spirits are growing in popularity, the real enemy appears to be Coca-Cola and other fizzy drinks.

The popularity of these beverages, argues Christian Malani of Onivins, is producing a society ignorant of wine's delights. "To appreciate wine requires a certain training and the drinks that young people favour — colas and juices — are not the best approach to acquiring that taste."

During the past 30 years the consumption of *vins de table* has dropped by more than 50 per cent, which suggests that it is not just the younger generation which is eroding a French institution. Sales have dipped to such low levels that wine is no longer the traditional accompaniment to a meal.

"Things are getting worse," says the food historian Gilbert Garnier. "France will have its last glass of wine in the year 2021 if national consumption continues to fall at this rate."

Danielle Terroille, a sociologist at University Paris VIII, thinks the fall in consumption has to do with the



Change French drinkers

sales of vintage wine are flourishing. "Today the French drink less but drink better," says Francis, manager of Taxi Jaune, a bar which attracts the young upwardly mobile crowd.

Onivins is also swift to point out that this current crisis has little to do with then quality of wine in France: last year's exports reached a new high. Nor has the decline in consumption anything to do with price — the cost of a glass is less than a mineral water.

Dismiss the health factor too. The French are among the heaviest smokers and spirit drinkers in Europe. "It is not just a question of taste," says Anne Lefevre, a young TV producer. "Wine is not sexy. It does not fit with the image of people today. We don't want to be like our parents."

It upset my mum

MATILDA BLYTH is 27 and has mixed emotions about experiences with school uniforms.

"School uniforms plagued my childhood. For 12 years I was decked out in royal blue blazer, beret and regulation grey skirt. I felt like an individual, but I was indistinguishable in a sea of faces — and the uniform was an overhead my single-parent family could do without."

"Every summer 'Back to School' signs in the shops proliferated. The visits to John Lewis sent my mother into a depression about her inability to provide. Each September, my sister and I would trek off to St Peter's Primary School in Victoria, London, wearing the previous year's summer dress. We hoped the weather wouldn't get cold before our free uniform vouchers arrived. When they did we would discover that the money would cover new shoes, some shirts, but never a new blazer or the straw boater required for church. Items we couldn't afford came from the school's second-hand shop. This was a great concept in theory, but in reality my taller friends recognised the garments they had worn the previous year. As attaching new name-tapes to old clothes became an inevitable family ritual."

"At 12, I went to Waldegrave, a comprehensive school in Twickenham, and was shoved into another variation in royal blue. I longed to

wear what I wanted. Then, at 17, I thought I had been saved. I received a bursary to go to one of the most expensive co-education boarding schools in Britain. Since Bedales School prides itself on being progressive, pupils don't wear uniform. I set off in the belief that my clothes wouldn't matter."

"After all, teenagers wear jeans. But for girls at Bedales this meant jeans with Joseph jumpers and silk Jigsaw shirts. The competition was on to wear the most expensive clothes while perfecting an aura of Wurzel Gummidge."

"I realised how my uniform had protected me from the harsher realities of life. No one at my previous schools had known that my clothes were bought on State benefits. I was no longer part of a larger community just because of what I wore. Now my clothes defined me as different. I stopped focusing on my friends and work to concentrate on how I looked."

"With hindsight, my uniforms were a good thing. They cocooned me from the more severe judgments of my contemporaries. They were my passport to people from all classes and they enabled me to develop a wide-ranging and ethnically diverse group of friends. I now realise that these are far more important things in life than obsessing about expressing my individuality through clothes."



Amiel Billetoop: for uniform

Dress rules should be firm

AMIEL BILLETOOP, 15, is a prefect at De Lisle Roman Catholic School in Loughborough, Leicestershire.

"We wear a black or navy blue jumper and skirt, and a white shirt with a yellow and blue striped tie. Obviously, we try and individualise it a bit — some people wear very long or short skirts, others wear much baggier shirts than you would normally wear to school."

"But the rules are strict and so they should be. Our skirts must be approximately knee-length. High heels and denim jackets are out too."

"Sometimes uniform cause problems. When parents can't afford something a child might be bullied for looking scruffy."

"There is always peer pressure to get smart shoes. If you don't have them that can lead to nasty remarks."

"I also think that it is sexist to insist that we wear skirts and not trousers in winter when it is cold. That is a rule which should be relaxed."

"But, generally, I am happy wearing a uniform. It gives you a sense of identity, of belonging to the school. It is like being in a football team — you are all wearing the same strip on the same side. That gives you a sense of pride in your school, brings you all together."

"Another benefit is that you never have to think about what you are going to wear in the morning. The discipline of wearing it serves you in good stead for the future. If you are used to turning up smartly dressed at school every day, you will do the same when you start work."

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Could Tiny get away with it now?

Lindsay Vincent on the new world of the buccaneers

Tycoons do not generally operate within parameters of morality that most of us would regard as normal, acceptable or even tolerable. That, plus a seemingly insatiable craving for mercantile might and an obsession with outsmarting the other chap, is what makes them different.

Few of this singular breed were more at odds with the world and its wife than Tiny Rowland, the creator of LORRH, who died on Saturday at the age of 80. Big bad Tiny, the scourge of successive British Governments for nearly three decades, but a bountiful banana to African potentates for even longer, courted friendships with as much verve as penguins seek the company of cats. He cared not much for social niceties unless they led to commercial progress. The great buccaneer, now at rest in a corporate box hill where other recent arrivals include Sir

Rowland was nifty with what is now known as the bung, but not as dumb or deviant as to rely on brown envelopes. Nothing would now impair his ability to request the number of a Swiss bank account, and neither would he encounter any problems in attracting executives who would adopt their lives according to the Gospel of Tiny. But the heavy arm of discipline would emerge from that quarter — the Establishment.

Rowland ran LORRH as a private fiefdom, and in many ways it was. He had his corporate jet, trophy assets such as The Observer and the Mayfair Rolls-Royce dealer Jack Barclay, and showed his disregard for authority by handing over shareholders' money as if it were his own. He was hardly alone in not being able to detect the line that divides personal and professional obligations — a former chief executive of the Wool-

He was in every way the last of a dying breed

White, and that earlier cult of "controversial" rogues, Robert Maxwell, was in every sense one of a dying breed.

Each had a singular way of asserting themselves at a first meeting. Goldsmith breached the outer limits of charm; White relied on a style and persona that was all flash; Maxwell tried to combine his own blend of all these traits, before quickly reverting to his true self — the crude bully. What they had in common was a conviction that they were outsiders. Goldsmith, the Anglo-French Jew; White, the professional Yorkshireman; and Maxwell, the Central European.

The Anglo-German Rowland also had chips on both shoulders. His style of greeting was to cause offence at the first opportunity. Deception was a constant. Tycoonism relies on slavish minions and, just as Goldsmith, White and Maxwell had their court jesters and executive henchmen who would go over the top without questioning their leader, Rowland had a full quota of sycophants. And when he lost them, bested in the LORRH boardroom by the German adventurer Dieter Bock, it was this as much as age that maimed his ability to fight. Rowland was over the weekend headlined as the last buccaneer, a catchy description but erroneous. Buccaneers are nowadays mostly to be found at the forefront of the technological revolution, where the spiritual and monetary leader is Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft. They will be with us till eternity, which is why officialdom will be forever locked in an unequal struggle to curb their excesses.

Rowland always poked two fingers at officialdom, but if he were starting out in business today, it is unlikely that he would have the same measure of success in outflanking it. Some things would still be the same, such as the ability to bribe politicians in a part of the world where corruption is second, if not first, nature.

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The author is the former *Mammon* of The Observer.

The Upper House's days may be numbered, but it is showing a lively new confidence

There's life in the old Lords yet

Last Wednesday I was one of the members of the House of Lords who voted, by 290 to 122, to reject the House of Commons amendment reducing the age of homosexual consent from 18 to 16. I listened to the whole debate, though I did not speak in it. I was left in no doubt that the judgment of the House of Lords was right, and that we were doing our proper job as a revising chamber. At least 20 Labour peers agreed with this: some Labour and Liberal peers also abstained, perhaps being reluctant to disagree with the majority in their parties.

On the broad issues there are two opposed but legitimate arguments. Some people say that homosexuality is not the same thing as heterosexuality, and should have a different status at law. Others say that both liberty and equality require that they should have the same status. Some people say that boys of 16 are less mature than 16-year-old girls, less able to form a mature judgment in their sexual decisions. My own observation has been that that is probably true, though whether it should be the basis of law is another matter. On these issues reasonable people can disagree, and did disagree in the debate.

The reason I feel certain we were right to vote as we did is the Joe Ashton amendment in the House of Commons. The House of Commons passed the clause reducing the age of consent by a very large majority, by 363 to 129. However, it rejected Mr Ashton's amendment by only 40 votes. His amendment proposed to insert these words: "Sixteen years (except when one party is in a position of authority, influence or trust in relation to the other, in which case both parties must have attained the age of 18 years)".

As Baroness Young told the House of Lords: "The Voting report, published last November, indicated that there are some 200,000 children living away from their parents. It sets out those groups most at risk, including those in children's homes and foster care, and of course particularly in penal institutions and remand homes, as well as children in schools, hospitals, and disabled children."

Disability is a very large category, whether boys or girls, who are living away from their parents, ought to be protected against potential sexual abusers who are in positions of authority. Many 16 or 17-year-olds in this position have already been abused, sexually or otherwise. For the present, the 18-year-old age of consent gives at least nominal protection to the boys, and provides some deterrent to potential predators who may be in charge of them. This protection is imperfect, and perhaps always will be imperfect, but it ought not to be removed until some better protection has been provided.

The House of Lords was saying to the House of Commons: "Legislate properly on this issue, after the working group has reported. Do not remove one protection at law for young males in care before replacing it with another."

Lord Williams of Mostyn replied to the debate. He is one of the House of Lords' favourite Labour boys should be deprived of their very limited protection as well.

Paedophilia does not start or stop at the age of 16. Paedophile networks do exist in the caring professions; paedophiles are drawn towards the young, some of them to very young children, some of them to older children, some of them to boys and girls of 16. Some paedophiles go after girls, some pursue boys, some are a danger to both sexes. The children who are most at risk are those who are away from home. Boarding schools have always had a dangerous minority of paedophile teachers, including paedophile lesbians in girls' schools; young people's prisons have always had paedophile wardens, again a small minority. The House of Commons amendment was defective because it was conceived simply in terms of equality of rights for teenagers, failing to consider their right to be protected from sexual abuse by people in authority. It may be true that all boys know their permanent sexual orientation by the age of 16. That is certainly a new doctrine. It may be right that 16-year-olds should be free to experiment with sex, and no one wants to take them to court for doing so. It is the older men or women whose "rights" should be in question.

One of the characteristics of the House of Lords is that our average age is higher than that of the House of Commons. They belong to the par-

ministers; many of us much prefer his style to the more becoming manner of Lord Richard, the Leader of the House. Yet Lord Williams's reply on the issue of the Ashton amendment was inadequate and insensitive. He said: "If the point is raised that Mr Joe Ashton's amendment was lost by only 40 votes, I say, '363 to 129'." He went on to argue that the existing law does not protect girls of 16 or 17 "who may be preyed upon by an older man". He was irrational to argue that because girls are still exposed to these predators in positions of trust

ems' generation; we, by and large, belong to that of the grandparents. As each generation grows older, it tends to become more conservative on moral issues. The moral standards of 1950, when members of the House of Lords were young, were more austere than those of 1970, when members of the House of Commons were young. Yet I do not believe that there is as great a difference between the two Houses on the moral principles as the difference in their votes would suggest.

Both Houses are tolerant about differences of sexual temperament; indeed age merely gives one more experience of the variety of human sexual conduct. Neither is homophobic, though both have homophobic among their Members. Neither House wants to reimpose rigorous Victorian standards of morality. Both Houses do want to protect the young. Both Houses are anti-paedophile.

The House of Lords accepted the need to put further protection for the young under authority in place before lowering the age of consent for boys. And the House of Commons did not. The House of Lords was right, as it was on the issue of the fourth-year Scottish university fees.

The House of Lords is showing a new confidence. Nothing will now stop the axe falling on the hereditary peers. It was the fear of the axe which made the House of Lords hold back from revising the work of the Commons. When the hereditary peers have gone, only the life peers will be left, but we will continue with the revising job. If we are eventually replaced, as we should be, with an elected House, that House will do the revising with far greater confidence. Britain has begun to have a real revising chamber.

William Rees-Mogg

The oracle of Westminster

Even the great brain of Irvine needs help at times, says Peter Riddell

Tony Blair has a curious flaw as Prime Minister. He has little apparent interest in his Government's most distinctive and far-reaching programme. Constitutional reform is changing the way Britain is governed in much more radical ways than is generally appreciated. You would not, however, guess so from listening to Mr Blair.

He has, of course, been devoting a large amount of time to Northern Ireland. But that is an issue apart, which preoccupies all Prime Ministers regardless of their general views on the constitution. Mr Blair has also visited Scotland and Wales, with less than universal acclaim locally. But, in England, he has been virtually silent on the subject. He has not made a major speech on constitutional reform as a whole.

In conversation, he is less interested in constitutional matters than, say, raising school standards, or government relations with business, or Europe. His advisers argue that the public cares about schools and the NHS but not about the constitution. Moreover, Mr Blair inherited a commitment to reform from John Smith, but does not himself see it as a dominating theme of his premiership. Instead, he views each proposal as a distinct remedy to a particular problem — devolution to satisfy the Scots and Welsh, electoral reform for the Liberal Democrats and so on — rather than as a whole.

Within Government, constitutional reform is also treated in a fragmented way. Territorial ministers deal with devolution; the Home Office with incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights, proportional representation for European elections and voting reform generally; the Environment Department



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

with the London mayor and local government reform; the Cabinet Office with freedom of information; the Leader of the Commons with its modernisation; while the Lord Chancellor and the Leader of the Lords uneasily share responsibility for the future of the Upper House. But there has been virtually no public discussion by ministers of the linkages, to the private dismay of some senior civil servants.

The official answer is that the linkage is the brain of Lord Irvine of Lairg. That is certainly a formidable instrument of government; and taxpayers are fortunate to have it for a mere fraction of what his old commercial clients used to pay. Lord Irvine chairs all the committees on specific change affects the rest of the system. Scottish Office ministers brush aside the impact of devolution on Westminster and Whitehall. Their view is es-

row about the redecoration of his Westminster apartment. It is also hard for an unelected Lord Chancellor to take a lead on changes intended to strengthen democracy, while other ministers are sensitive about encroachments into their areas.

Lord Irvine's brain may ensure that reform Bills are consistent with each other in their drafting, but it has not produced a coherent overall strategy. This is not the same as a big bang comprehensive package. Reform should be a gradual, rolling process, but, at present, there is no sense of direction or of how one change affects the rest of the system. Scottish Office ministers brush aside the impact of devolution on Westminster and Whitehall. Their view is es-

entially "I'll be all right on the night", reinforced by informal contracts to deal with areas of tension. This will not do. The arrangements are inherently unstable, and likely to produce conflict between Edinburgh and London.

The debate over the Human Rights Bill, incorporating the European Convention, has also been too narrow. It has mainly been about the impact on the press over privacy and on the Churches. These matters but are secondary to the fundamental shift in the balance between the judiciary and politicians. The Bill retains parliamentary supremacy, but, in practice, it is a big step towards the creation of a written constitution adjudicated by a supreme court.

Moreover, ministers talk as if Lords reform merely involves an easy populist attack on hereditary privi-

lege. Removing the voting rights of hereditary peers is in many ways the least important issue of some constitutionally minded MPs like Tony Benn noted after Wednesday's vote against lowering the age of consent for homosexuals was carried by life peers. The key question is less the composition of the second chamber than its role and powers, particularly in relation to the Commons. Any change to the composition of the Lords will increase its legitimacy, at least in the eyes of its own members, and therefore its ability to challenge the Commons.

This autumn will see both the report of the Jenkins commission on electing the Commons and the Government's options paper on the Lords. Ministers talk as if there was no link. But they are closely connected. The creation of a second chamber, elected by proportional representation or related to devolved and regional bodies (as the German Bundesrat is) would change the whole debate about electoral reform for the Commons. Moreover, should a reformed second chamber act as a formal guarantor of the quasi-federal and written constitution that is now being created?

Professor Peter Hennessy recently cited the view of a Whitehall insider that "Most senior ministers involved in constitutional reform either don't believe in it, aren't interested in it or don't understand it." The reluctance of Mr Blair to address the "big picture" — for instance, by issuing a White Paper on constitutional reform as he has on other issues — may be because ministers do not want publicly to admit the far-reaching implications.

Radical changes to the constitution are currently being introduced in a piecemeal, almost haphazard, way. Senior officials complain of a "dumbing down" of political debate. Lord Irvine's brain has achieved a lot. But the time has arrived, perhaps in the reshuffle, for the creation of a constitutional supreme in the Commons, an ideal post for Robin Cook, who does see the "big picture" here. Yet Mr Blair himself also needs to devote more time and thought to the constitution.

In the dark

SEARCHING for secrets is a tricky game, particularly if the subject of your investigations has won the sobriquet, "prince of darkness". Ask Paul Routledge, trying to research an unauthorised biography of Peter Mandelson, the gifted but mysterious minister. Peter's friends, including key figures Lord Bullock, the former Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, and Robert Harris, the thriller writer, are among those who are proving elusive, despite apparently agreeing to speak. Surely Mandelson has not resorted to his black arts to silence witnesses?

Bullock was founding Master of St Catherine's College, Oxford, where Mandelson was an undergraduate, while Harris championed Peter early on, asserting that he was "helping to save the party from extinction" during the hard Left years. Recently, Harris has combined with Mandelson and Nick Hornby to compete, unsuccessfully, in a quiz night at the River Café.

Bullock, I gather from quad sources, was due to have lunch with Routledge but cancelled. Harris has gone abroad, but Routledge

intends to pursue both. A friend of Mandelson denies that anyone has been learnt on not to co-operate, but says others may have been discouraged from talking to Routledge after his Gordon Brown biography. Nick Brown, the Chief Whip, was fingered as a Routledge source. "I am not surprised that they do not want to speak to him. After Nick Brown, people don't trust him."

Routledge insists that he intends a balanced account, but will struggle if friends will not speak about this enigmatic figure. As well as fending off questions about his private life, Mandelson has always been boringly loyal to Blair: is he happy to play the wicked henchman, the dark to Blair's light? We

● IT must be the start of self-awareness week. Eva Herzigova, the brusque model, has disclosed that she pulled out of filming with Tom Cruise in Stanley Kubrick's flick Eyes Wide Shut because "it became clear they just wanted me for my body". As opposed, one imagines, to her RADA-tuned acting talents. This snap is to show just how blink-

ered producers were, but to support Eva's campaign to be recognised as a character actress. The diary shall refrain from showing future images until she is 70.

Money talks

MALCOLM BRADBURY has done a Martin Amis and left his publisher for more money. He has abandoned Secker for Picador for his next novel *Diderot at the Hermitage*. "My editor at Picador was John Blackwell. His death was the catalyst," says Bradbury, whose



novel dwells on meetings between Diderot and Catherine the Great. "It was also commercial, because Picador showed great interest in my new novel, which is quite different from what I have done before. As a result, they offered more money." Bradbury, one of our best paid novelists, earns his dough. "In 1992 I was researching Diderot during the attempted coup against Yeltsin and it was a race to get hold of the papers before they were stolen by the St Petersburg mafia."

● COMPETITORS are bursting over the drawbridge at *Diary Towers* with entries for our "name doubles" competition. A Sussex reader recalls a backwater in Co Durham where he came across two farmhouses, one called *Seldons* and its neighbour *Never Seen*. But a sighting in *Chelsea* takes the

lead: a pair of cars, one with the plate "2 BE", the other "NOT 2B". Rows about who drives which of the cars could grow rather philosophical.

Fat chance

EVA is not the only ambitious actor. Marlon Brando wants to play



Winston Churchill. The elephantine actor, who lives in Tahiti, has been attracted by the film's intention to create a psychologically brooding "Godfather"-style Churchill, who suffers from black dog and drinks too much champagne (true to life, then). A source at Samuelson Productions, which is producing the film with assistance from the Churchill family, fears the big actor might not be suitable. "We want a heavyweight actor but Brando might be too much."

● REMEMBER that cap, worn by William Hague? Well, it was not a crude attempt to pick up the Yardie vote, after all. "Anybody with as little hair as me wears some sort of cap when it is hot."

Cop that

A LABOUR MP had to suspend his party's faint scepticism of the police after he went to RAF Cosford as part of a new initiative so MPs can experience the dangers of police life. Steve McCabe, MP, and police were bombarded with petrol bombs and other lethal missiles in an effort to secure a building and arrest a knife-throating criminal. "It was really hair-raising," says McCabe from behind his riot shield. "I think we should all have more admiration for the police."

● ANOUSKA HEMPEL (pictured), once a noisy actress turned hotel magnate, is making another career change. Lady Weinberg, as she prefers to be called, has found her true vocation as an industrial engineer. In conjunction with a Dr Garth Wood she has applied to patent a type of oxygen cylinder, but declines to disclose why. Perhaps she wants to place them in her hotel foyers to revive guests when they



receive their astronomical bills.

Royal flush

EVER keen on "Labour smugs Queen" yams, the *Daily Mail* grew excitable over a report recommending that the monarchy should be modernised. And who was co-author of this republican plot to overthrow the Queen? My charming colleague Tim Haines, whose bracing brand of Conservatism would make Michael Portillo wince.

JASPER GERARD



MURDER IN THE CAPITOL

Where public office means public offices

What President Clinton aptly described as "a moment of savagery at the front door of American civilisation" has dominated thoughts, prayers and headlines throughout the United States this weekend. The murder of two police officers within Congress itself on an otherwise sleepy and steamy Friday afternoon will force a re-examination of security arrangements throughout Washington and beyond. Mr Clinton said on Saturday that Congress should remain "a place where people can freely and proudly walk the halls of the government". That fine sentiment may not prove practical. American public life, so open in symbol and spirit, will struggle to be the same again.

Russell Eugene Weston Jr, the wounded assailant, was sadly all too typical of the figures associated with high-profile American shootings. The combination of mental illness, easy availability of firearms and a paranoid discontent focused incoherently at the federal Government has been found on numerous occasions before. The American Midwest, for some unknown reason, has provided a disproportionate number of such misfits. There are, unfortunately, no security precautions that can dissuade those determined to undertake a potential suicide mission. But law enforcement officers are entitled to ask for the maximum degree of protection that it is possible to provide.

From the outset of the American republic, politics and violence have been intertwined. Alexander Hamilton, an influential founding father of the country and the first Secretary of the Treasury, was killed in a duel by Aaron Burr, then Vice-President of the United States. Five serving Presidents have been shot in office: all but Ronald Reagan died of their wounds. As President-elect, Franklin Roosevelt narrowly escaped assassination. Former President Theodore Roosevelt was shot at close range but managed to complete his speech.

Despite this legacy, the Capitol building has remained open. With some reluctance metal detectors were installed 15 years ago after a terrorist bomb plot was foiled. Once citizens have passed through that barrier they are free to meander in and out of congressional offices and committee rooms in a fashion that would be unimaginable in Westminster or Whitehall. The same is true for most other American public buildings. The Supreme Court, the Department of Defence and the FBI headquarters are all major tourist attractions. Only the White House employs the sorts of security restrictions with which the British are familiar.

That commitment to open and accessible administration is the cornerstone of American democracy. The Constitution is based on the premise that public figures have no legitimacy other than that bestowed by popular sovereignty. Americans have always believed that public office means office available to the public and that public buildings must be buildings open to the public. Although opinion polls record vast scepticism about the candour and competence of their politicians, Americans retain an extraordinary reverence for the institutions of government. It is for this reason that the latest attack will have a lasting impact.

This spirit should be respected as security methods are reconsidered. It would be better to provide more police officers at each existing checkpoint than introduce a raft of new restrictions or ban access to certain places outright. Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson died while protecting an extraordinary democratic institution: it would compound the tragedy of their loss if that spirit of openness were lost as well. As President Kennedy argued, only weeks before he was slain from the top of a public library, "government must be seen in order to be believed". Americans must go on seeing their Government.

FLEEING THROUGH GEORGIA

Abkhazia is a faraway place that should not be ignored

For decades Abkhazia, a province within Georgia, was the Soviet *nomenklatura's* favourite holiday destination. It is a land of orchards, beaches and hideous Stalinist-chic sanatoriums. Ethnic Abkhaz and Georgians had lived cheek by jowl for centuries. They are different races with different languages. But since the end of a year-long war for Abkhaz independence in 1993 this has become a ghost land, with 80 per cent of its population driven out. It is economically isolated because of the *de facto* independence no one will recognise. Its fruit is ferried out on the back seats of Ladas and its resorts are bullet-pocked shells.

For five years a kind of peace has been maintained by a Commonwealth of Independent States peacekeeping force, overseen by a smaller UN monitoring mission. They police a buffer zone between ethnically cleansed Abkhazia and shanty towns of Georgian refugees. But on Saturday the UN-sponsored Georgian-Abkhaz talks on the province's status broke up in Geneva, deadlocked. And on July 31 the UN and CIS mandates expire. There is no sign that the Georgian Government will extend them. Withdrawal may mean war.

The Georgians claim that the CIS force — accepted under duress when no UN one was forthcoming — is biased. It is entirely drawn from the Russian Army, and commanded from Russian, not CIS, headquarters. Of its four battalions, one fought the Georgians in the 1992-93 war, while another two are recruited from anti-Georgian nationalists.

Whereas conventional buffer-zone forces face both ways, this one faces only Georgian-held ground. And there can be little doubt that in May's resurgence of violence, in

which hundreds were killed and 30,000 Georgian civilians were driven from their buffer-zone homes, the peacekeepers did little to intervene. Their inactivity has since made them the targets of Georgian guerrilla attacks.

The obstacle in Geneva was Tbilisi's insistence that May's refugees be allowed to return to their homes before discussion of the status issue. The Abkhaz refused, insisting that the refugees had supported the Georgian guerrillas who routinely make incursions through the buffer-zone. Both positions have their merits. Some refugees supported the guerrillas, but Georgia cannot house them. While the Abkhaz, less than 20 per cent of the province's 1992 population, have maintained an illegal preponderance by refusing to allow the other 150,000 evicted Georgians to return.

But the issue for the international community is straightforward. The latest refugees, unlike the vast majority expelled in 1992-93, were under the protection of UN-monitored forces. They must be allowed to return and rebuild. Though the force's inactivity in May was due more to negligence than bias — the UN mission thinks it is generally impartial — increasing the number of UN observers might (cheaply) both reassure Tbilisi and ensure that the Russians do their job. In return, Tbilisi must renew both UN and CIS mandates. As for final status, Georgia has offered autonomy: Abkhazia still wants independence. But pressure on Georgia to share the benefits of its imminent status as a transit country for Caspian oil may present economically crippled Abkhazia with an offer it cannot refuse.

ELGAR RULES, OK?

The great English composer was a model English football fan

The football chant is a popular English musical form. So is the cantata. Amateur choirs the length and breadth of the country continually perform both these peculiarly native genres, with more emotion and brio than singers elsewhere. But until now they were two musical cultures. Few singers practised both forms. And there was virtually no overlap in performers, libretto or music between the songs of Anfield and the songs of the Albert Hall.

So the revelation in our arts pages that Elgar composed the first football chant is a thunderclap that brings two great traditions together. Until now musicologists have recorded 1895 as the year in which Elgar was working on *King Olaf* and *Caractacus*, his cantatas about romantic loners in picturesque situations. They have failed to notice that he found time in December also to put the first football chant to music.

He wrote it for his team, Wolverhampton Wanderers, that famous old side from the industrial heartland. His score was taken from a sports report in the local newspaper: "He banged the leather for goal." The language is colourful. But Elgar loved the music of lush language, from the days when he learnt Longfellow at his mother's knee. Just as he, who had been rejected by the metropolis, shouted for outsiders and the Wolves.

There have been attempts to diversify football singing before now. Fauré never quite matched Damien Hirst's *Vindaloo* as the theme for this year's World Cup. But in 1994 the three fat tenors introduced *Nessun*

Dorma to millions who had previously thought that Puccini was a kind of pasta. Rodgers and Hammerstein composed *You'll never walk alone*, originally as the sentimental climax for *Carousel* rather than the tribal war song of the Liverpool crowds. *Blaydon Races* is still sung for Newcastle at St James' Park, sometimes with the original words of the rousing old Geordie folksong.

However, most football songs are rude, not romantic. They echo the last enchantments of the music-hall rather than concert hall. *Keep right on to the end of the road* and *I'm for ever blowing bubbles* rather than "I hear the voices that I left on earth". Chants, such as the Pompey chimes, are even coarser. They tend to rhythmic recitative alleging that the referee is a trochee or "You're monosyllable and you know you are."

Elgar's football chant sounds better than these, though its melody may be complex for the grandstand. But he would be delighted that it has been rediscovered. He was proud to be an Englishman and a man of the people. "I like to look on the composer's vocation as the old troubadours and bards did. In those days it was no disgrace for a man to be turned on to step in front of an army and inspire them with a song." He hated the snobbery of high-culture critics.

Elgar from the stands would unite the two choral forms. It would confirm the power and pleasure of mass singing. It would make football a more harmonious concert hall for families. And, who knows, it might even improve the quality of English football.

Form and timing of Lords reform

From Mr D. N. P. Radlett

Sir, The protestations by Tony Benn and other members of the House of Commons about their right to pass whatever legislation they wish without interference from the House of Lords (Riddell on Politics, July 24) may be appropriate in the context of a debate about whether the House of Lords should continue to exist. However, the plain fact is that as the Upper House does exist it must have a role to play in the passage of legislation.

As to when it should give way to the Lower House, I am unaware of any reason why Dicey's view does not remain appropriate. The point is which the Lords must yield or the Crown intervene is properly determined by anything which conclusively shows that the House of Commons represents the nation (The Law of the Constitution, 1993).

Much of the whingeing from the Lower House relates to matters upon which the deliberate decision of the nation has neither been sought nor given. In such circumstances, members of the Lower House should reflect on the propriety of their complaints, particularly given their collective tendency to impersonate a set of rubber stamps for government policy.

It is, in any event, incumbent on them to use the provisions of the Parliament Acts 1911-49 — hard luck if that means no instant legislation — or keep quiet.

Yours faithfully,
D. N. P. RADLETT
(Lecturer in Law, Mid Kent College),
119 Livingstone Road,
Gillingham, Kent ME7 2EJ.
July 24.

From Mr Jeremy Norman

Sir, The recent vote in the House of Lords on the age of consent (letters, July 24) has done the nation a great favour. It has highlighted the antidemocratic and anachronistic nature of our second chamber. Having successfully overturned the will of the elected Commons, the Upper House has also chosen to flout a ruling of the European Commission of Human Rights.

A quiet revolution is already happening which will inevitably lead to the demise of the peerage system. Her Majesty the Queen has ruled that in future the succession to the throne should be vested in the first-born of either sex. The same rule can hardly fail to be applied sooner or later to the peerage.

Imagine the scene in a few years, when both adopted and illegitimate children can succeed, as they too will wish to claim their equal rights under the law. Further chaos will ensue when titles become divorced from great houses and the estates where sons have been given property in anticipation of inheritance of a title, only to find that the title passes to their sister or cousin. Further fun will be had when daughters of a former peer, now dead, challenge the rights of the son or daughter of a living peer. Clearly it is time for this medieval farce to end.

The peerage is good for nothing now except as an occasional pageant of moth-eaten ermine walking backwards into oblivion.

Yours sincerely,
JEREMY NORMAN
(Chairman and Managing Director,
Burke's Peerage Ltd, 1974-94),
Moreton Yard, SW1V 2NT.
July 24.

From Lord Ailesbury

Sir, Because this is such a sensitive issue for the House of Lords, perhaps I may be allowed to comment on Lady Warnock's assertion, in her interview with Jane Shilling (Body and Mind, July 21), that crossbenchers "have a natural tendency to oppose the party of government".

A moment's reflection would prompt the inescapable thought that that would bring the governing of the country to a halt. Which is why we discipline ourselves to have precisely the opposite tendency.

Yours sincerely,
AILESBURY.
(House of Lords,
July 22).

From Mr Adrian J. Russell

Sir, Much has been said of the "unselected" nature of the House of Lords. However, many of its active members have at some time not only been elected MPs but also re-elected several times after proven service. Others have been elevated in recognition of the regard of wide sections of the public for their exceptional achievement or long commitment to public or popular institutions.

Do not the appointments of such members in some ways have more democratic validity than those of untried politicians whose vague promises seemed the least dangerous of the three unknowns on our ballot papers?

Yours faithfully,
A. RUSSELL,
60 High Street, Lynnhett Maravars,
Poole, Dorset BH16 6BH.
July 24.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Influence of the SOE on plans to assassinate Hitler

From Mr Gervase Cowell

Sir, May I try to tether the speculative balloons of Daniel Johnson's article ("Why we should have killed Hitler", July 24) to some facts of substance. There is no mystery, no enigma.

Nobody turned down the Fodley project to assassinate Hitler (report and leading article, July 23). There was, always, argument about its merits, but while the Chiefs of Staff did say that from a military point of view they would rather Hitler remained where he was, they added that "on the wider point of view, the sooner he was got out of the way the better" (Ismay's minute to Churchill of June 21, 1944, in the Special Operations Executive's files). SOE's German section had its own misgivings, but theirs was not the choice.

Fodley simply ran into the sands because there is a world of difference between an enemy country and a country occupied by the enemy. SOE had for years been cultivating, training and supplying the elements of resistance across occupied Europe. At the time of the Allied landings in June 1944 there were 150 wine-less links with France alone. There was nothing, and could be nothing, comparable in Germany.

It is true that the British had been wary of overtures from anyone claiming to represent a resistance group in Germany. The reason was not the fantastical one that somebody had "grudging respect" for Hitler. It was because British Intelligence had burnt its fingers badly in the Venlo incident in 1939, when two members of the Secret Intelligence Service were arrested over the German border to meet

members of what purported to be a German dissident group — they were in fact members of the Gestapo.

I would refute the assertion that special forces actions, other than the German rescue of Mussolini, did not alter the course of the war. It was the achievement of SOE to have given organisation and military significance to the otherwise disparate bodies of resistance.

At the time of the Allied landings the Germans were hampered in moving reinforcements to Normandy, cutting off the movement north from the Rhine Valley and destroying the great Channel ports of Belgium and Holland. If the war had not been shortened in this way there would have been fewer, if any, left to liberate from the desolation of the camps.

Yours sincerely,
GERVASE COWELL
(SOE Adviser to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 1988-96),
141 Burdon Lane,
Cheadam, Surrey SM2 7DB.
July 24.

From Father Denis Geraghty, OP

Sir, If, as your leading article suggests and Daniel Johnson's article seems to agree, the conduct of certain heads of state places them outside the bounds of international law, why did we bother to try the Nazi leaders at Nuremberg? Why did we not just execute them immediately without trial?

If, on this principle, our reasons for not murdering Colonel Gaddafi and Saddam Hussein are purely pragmatic, you seem to be advocating a very

dangerous principle indeed.

The application of the rule of law through the courts is, amongst other reasons, intended to eliminate the need for private justice. Justice must not only be done, it must be seen to be done.

The exercise of the rule of law is also vital for the continuance of the educative process of civilised society. It will help to ensure that we understand that the moral law forbids murder, no matter who the victims are or what they have done.

Yours sincerely,
DENIS GERAGHTY,
St Dominic's Priory,
Southampton Road, NW5 4LB.
July 24.

From Mr H. O. Dovey

Sir, You link the ingenuity of SOE's schemes for killing Hitler with the names of three writers — "secret servants all" — Buchan, Childers and Greene. The fourth name which surely belongs here is that of Geoffrey Household. SOE's favourite option, a marksman shooting Hitler at Berchtesgaden, is straight from Household's novel *Rogue Male*.

Moreover, he was an Army intelligence officer. In his own book, *Against the Wind* (Michael Joseph, 1958), he describes another British scheme — in 1940 — that was abandoned: to blow up oil installations in Romania.

Yours faithfully,
H. O. DOVEY,
1 Nunbury Drive,
Theford, Norfolk IP24 3EN.
July 23.

Public spending plans

From the Shadow Chancellor and the Shadow Secretary of State for Social Security

Sir, Your Economics Editor ("Why the City can relax about spending", July 23) claims that the Government's spending plans are not loose when measured over the Parliament. But Labour cannot realistically claim the credit for the levels of public spending during its first two years, as these were limits inherited from the Conservatives.

We can judge Labour only on spending decisions which have been taken by Labour ministers themselves. That is why we are so concerned by Gordon Brown's announcement (reports, July 15; letters, July 17) that overall public spending is to rise by almost 3 per cent above inflation for the next three years.

Ms Bush says that the Government will run "budget surpluses" over the next three years. It will not. The PSBR (public sector borrowing requirement) will rise from £2 billion to £4 billion to £5 billion over each of those years respectively. It is also misleading, when considering the impact of the spending review, to talk of average

spending increases over the whole Parliament, which includes the first two years of tight control under Conservative spending plans: growth in spending for the next three years will be 2.75 per cent above inflation.

It is a fallacy to claim that Gordon Brown's spending plans will not be inflationary because they are skewed towards capital spending: almost 90 per cent of the extra public spending over the next three years will be on current rather than capital spending.

Ms Bush omits to mention the biggest single failure of the Comprehensive Spending Review. Labour claimed that they would combine fiscal prudence with finding more money for health and education by reducing the cost of welfare. But they have totally failed to achieve this. Welfare spending is now set to rise by £37 billion over the next three years — almost as much as the increases in health and education combined.

Yours ever,
FRANCIS MAUDIE,
Shadow Chancellor,
IAIN DUNCAN SMITH,
Shadow Secretary of State for Social Security,
House of Commons.
July 22.

Central Office changes

From Dr Aidan Rankin

Sir, Archie Norman's threatened changes to the organisation of Conservative Central Office (reports, July 21 and 24) will dismay many grassroots Tories. This is not, necessarily, because they approve of the traditional structure. It is because they voted, in good faith, for a measure of internal democracy and an end to arbitrary decision-making.

Under the "fresh future" reforms, such controversial decisions as the closure of regional offices, large-scale staff redundancies and the introduction of new management techniques should be the preserve of the management board, which is partially elected by the membership.

However, it looks as if the most important changes will be forced through before the board even comes into existence. This will reduce the

board to a toothless legislature, presiding over a skeletal party structure and, I suspect, a dwindling membership. It will also render void the expensive ballots and propaganda which promised us democratic change.

Thoughtful Conservatives should be worried by the trend towards managerial jargon and the application of supermarket-style methods to a volunteer organisation with strong historical roots. For it sits ill with the party's "new" listening image, and its justified criticisms of new Labour's managerialist dogma.

It was once observed that "Labour isn't working". Now we can say with some justice that the Conservatives aren't conserving any more.

Yours faithfully,
AIDAN RANKIN,
Flat K, Guilford Court,
51 Guilford Street, WC1N 1ES.
aidan@dircon.co.uk
July 24.

Jewish broadcasting

From Mr Barry S. Hyman

Sir, If there is a perceived bias in the Jewish share of religious broadcasting, as Jason Nisse suggests (Media, July 17), it is less in the allocation of the two-minute *Today* slot and more in the special occasion broadcasts.

Today might well need the addition of an orthodox Jewish voice and should have it. It should be remembered nonetheless that Rabbi Lionel Blue does not speak for Reform Judaism when he broadcasts, and he never claims to do so. He speaks as a compassionate individual and a tolerant rabbi, with his own personal and idiosyncratic style.

Broadcasts for the Jewish high holidays, however, tend to be given by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, who speaks eloquently for one section of orthodox Jewry. My recent representations on behalf of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain to Religious Broadcasting about the spiritual leadership of Reform Judaism being given the chance to speak have been met with firm rebuffs.

This is as if the Moderator of the Church of Scotland were to be chosen as the representative of "orthodox" Christianity, to the exclusion of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY HYMAN,
The Sternberg Centre for Judaism,
80 East End Road, N3 2SY.
July 17.

Words on Internet

From Mrs Gertrud Walton

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky's assumption ("Words will be the winners in the Internet gold rush", July 21) that the Internet "is first and foremost a medium of words" may be doubted. Usage, of course, depends upon the user, and thus upon his or her preference for either verbally or visually presented information. The assumption is wholly false for scientists, for whom mathematical symbols convey visual images.

Unfortunately for this community of users, the problem of access is far from being solved. A functional Internet would be ideal; meanwhile, users of mathematics, notoriously difficult to read, prefer to rely on print.

Sincerely yours,
GERTRUD WALTON
(Editor, *Special Relativity Letter*),
18 St Swithun Street,
Winchester SO23 9UP.

Past imperfect

From Mrs Elizabeth Gabriel

Sir, How I mourn the demise of the use of "was sitting" and "was standing" in favour of the hideously inelegant "was sat" and "was stood".

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH GABRIEL,
October Cottage, Hulland,
Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 3EP.

Art decor

From Mr Paul von Geyer

Sir, I wholly disagree with Lucy Hawking's article, "Exposing the cheek of the chic" (July 23), in which she derides the television programme *Changing Rooms*. The whole idea of the programme has to be doing the previously unthinkable. In a rapidly changing world we need a critical reappraisal of what we hold true.

After all, why has "barley white" become such an unimaginative, play-safe convention? Surely, is it not inherited from a taste for Southern European minimalism among the Edwardian middle class?

Having painted the inside of my Seventies purpose-built a deep art-deco gold and an art-nouveau vanilla, with all sockets painted metallic gold, the solidity, shape and dimension of these walls is a joy compared with the false illusion of light and space enjoyed by the off-white brigade.

Changing Rooms is more than welcome to do something with my "pink" bathroom.

Yours,
PAUL VON GEYER,
Von Geyer Associates,
PO Box 1853, Bournemouth BH1 1XJ.
July 23.

Stage directions

From Miss Mary E. Jelley

Sir, If Mr P. R. Davies (letter, July 23) should again have a fancy for standing on the steps of a London theatre dressed in his sporting new brass-buttoned blazer, he will be quite safe from being mistaken for a doorman if he unbuttons his smart blazer, thus at least helping to hide the buttons that played him false.

If that does not work he can tie a knot in all four corners of his handkerchief and wear it on his head to complete the picture of a holiday spirit.

Yours sincerely,
MARY E. JELLEY,
The Shepherd's Cottage,
Chute, via Andover SP19 9ER.
July 23.

From Mr Amir Shilji

Sir, What Mr Davis needs if he wishes not to be accused by the London tourists is not so much a change of "dress", but more a change of disposition. "What should he wear?" he asks. Wear a frown.

Yours faithfully,
AMIR SHIJI,
4 Ram Pass, High Street,
Kingston upon Thames KT1 1HH.
July 24.

From Mr D. C. Bevan

Sir, I do understand Mr Davis's experience. About thirty years ago I awaited the arrival of a guest at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Dressed in dinner jacket (many if not all did in those days), I stood in the foyer holding two copies of the programme; within just a few minutes a number of people tried to purchase them from me.

Yours etc,
D. C. BEVAN,
Stanford, 4 Petre Close,
Ingatstone, Essex CM4 9SX.
dgb@bit.demon.co.uk

From Captain C. P. R. Belton, RN

Sir, May I suggest to Mr Davis that he dress in a pair of dirty jeans and a T-shirt, in which he could only be mistaken for a theatregoer.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
CHRISTOPHER BELTON,
45 Heathfield Green,
Midhurst GU29 9QA.
July 23.

OBITUARIES

TINY ROWLAND

R. W. ("Tiny") Rowland, entrepreneur, died of cancer in London on July 24 aged 80. He was born in Simla, India, on November 27, 1917.

Tiny Rowland was one of the most colourful and controversial businessmen of the postwar period. Over three decades, from the early 1960s, he built Lomrho from virtually nothing into one of the most powerful companies in Africa, then almost destroyed it in a series of increasingly bizarre and damaging feuds, vendettas and misadventures.

Finally and sadly, after he provoked his own board into dismissing him in 1994, he was reduced to protesting in impotent rage — often via expensively bought newspaper advertisements — as his former subordinates broke up his scattered, far-flung empire of mines, industry, hotels, agriculture and general trading.

Many things about Tiny Rowland were not what they seemed, starting with his name. Far from being small, he was a tall and strikingly handsome man, even in old age. He was born Roland Walter Fuhrhop, the third child and second son of a German trader who had been detained in a British internment camp in imperial India during the First World War.

Rowland (the name he adopted in 1939) was not, though, German through-and-through. His mother, to whom he was devoted, was half-British and half-Dutch. She was eventually to die of cancer in a second British internment camp, this time on the Isle of Man, during the Second World War. These early harsh personal experiences may well have helped to forge the contempt he was to show for so many British institutions, including the City and the law.

The Second World War was inevitably a traumatic time for a recently arrived German immigrant to Britain. Rowland, like most teenagers in Hamburg, where his father ran an import-export business, had been recruited into the Hitler Youth movement at the age of 16. This seems to have prompted his mother to persuade her husband to remove their second son to England in 1934 to be dispatched to Churchill's School, Petersfield. His stay there lasted less than two years and he was chiefly to be remembered by his contemporaries for his size, his blond hair and his talent at sport.

Drafted into the British Army in Scotland, he refused a commission on the grounds that his parents were detained as enemy aliens and that his own elder brother was fighting with the Wehrmacht. He spent 27 days in Barlinnie prison in Glasgow from military service the following year. He did some war-directed civilian work, including a short time as a porter at Paddington station, then voluntarily joined

his parents on the Isle of Man, where he was employed as a teacher.

After the war he made a living in London as what would then have been called a "spiv", selling items in short supply such as lipstick, cars and refrigerators.

Rowland soon saw that the real profit lay in owning the factories and set off on a chain of buying and selling that brought him his first fortune. He also found an engineer, Lionel Taylor, who could run the factories for him. One day Taylor brought Rowland down from his Mayfair flat to show off his infant daughter in the back of his car. The child, Josie, became Rowland's wife 20 years later.

In 1948, after a protracted dispute with the Inland Revenue, Rowland emigrated, with the Taylors, to Rhodesia, where over the next dozen years he farmed tobacco, took over a Mercedes franchise, bought an interest in gold, copper and general mines, and set up a company to build an oil pipeline from L. Mozambique.

His destiny arrived in 1961 in the unlikely shape of Angus Ogilvy, the future husband of Princess Alexandra, who went to Salisbury in 1961 to revive a moribund company called Lomrho, then controlled by the London financier Harley Drayton. Rowland merged most of his private interests into the company in return for a share of the equity (it was later claimed that his assets were greatly overvalued in this transaction).

Essentially, Rowland was an outsider who, unlike many outsiders, nursed no secret desire to be embraced by the British Establishment. This was both a strength and a weakness. In business it meant that he was quite unaffected by the racial attitudes of the 1960s and saw instead, with a vision that has been compared to that of Cecil Rhodes, an historic opportunity to develop the natural resources of newly independent Africa.

The weakness was that such a perverse outsider could not call on — and, to his credit perhaps, had no wish to nurture — the clubbish, old school tie contacts of the City of London when his company had an urgent need for cash to fund deals, or when international exchange rates turned against them.

This failure culminated in 1992 in a desperate £177.5 million loan from Colonel Gaddafi of Libya, brokered by the Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi, which alienated the City from Lomrho and revived serious doubts about Rowland's judgment and integrity — doubts from which his career never fully recovered.

He was not helped by the fact that this episode coincided with the death and subsequently revealed iniquities of Robert Maxwell, another brash European immigrant shunned by the City who ran his company as a personal fiefdom. The comparison was unfair to Rowland, who, apart from being infinitely more refined than Maxwell, could also claim to have created a company that was the biggest food producer in Africa.

Like Maxwell (to whom he spoke in German), Rowland, though, had always done business through high-level, face-to-face, political contacts. Presidents Kaunda of Zambia, Moi of Kenya and Hastings Banda of Malawi were among many African leaders who remained friends with Rowland through three decades. He would fly by private jet into African capitals, usually by night, untroubled by mundane formalities like a visa or passport, and be welcomed at the State House with a warmth and freedom denied to most diplomats.

This was a source of constant friction between Lomrho and the Foreign Office, though the Americans



Rowland: controversial figure who built Lomrho into a powerful company and then almost destroyed it

and Israelis placed a higher value on Rowland's experience. Permission for Israel to land in Nairobi, for example, on the dramatic Entebbe rescue mission was arranged personally by Rowland through his friendship with Moi and the deputy head of Mossad.

He had an extraordinary range of international contacts, not all of unsullied reputation. But a head of M16 was once heard to admit that Rowland's knowledge of Africa and some parts of the Middle East was superior to that of any security service. Rowland recruited a former deputy head of M16, Nicholas Elliott, on to the Lomrho board.

When South Africa rejoined the international community in the 1990s, it was Rowland who eased its trading and diplomatic contacts in black Africa. Only he could

bring the local warring parties together for peace talks in Mozambique. He was not, though, invariably prudent in his political alignments, even abroad. Joshua Nkomo in Zimbabwe and Jonas Savimbi in Angola were two who did not repay major investments.

His judgments of politicians could be equally flawed in Britain — it was typical of his basic misunderstanding of British politics that he should have heavily backed David Owen just at the moment that the SDP was about to end up in the shadows and miseries. He also unnecessarily alienated the Conservative Governments headed successively by Edward Heath and Margaret Thatcher. This was despite recruiting two once-celebrated Tory figures, Lord Duncan-Sandys and Sir Edward du Cann — doing nei-

ther of their reputations any good in the process — for corporate window-dressing as Lomrho chairmen. Du Cann once took Rowland to Chequers, where the latter harangued Thatcher to the point where she refused to meet him ever again.

Lomrho found itself in regular legal disputes and at one stage fought a long courtroom battle with Shell and BP over oil sanctions against Rhodesia. Things got so bitter that there came a time when several Lomrho directors were at serious risk of being jailed for alleged fraud in South Africa. That situation was saved only by the intervention of Duncan-Sandys with the South African Foreign Office. (The oil sanctions dispute — though they quarrelled over it while he was still Foreign Secretary — also provided the foundation for Rowland's association with David Owen, who came to believe that he had justice on his side.)

The unfortunate Duncan-Sandys became a *cause célèbre* himself, when his tax-free salary payments through the Cayman Islands were in 1973 branded by Heath as "the unpleasant and unacceptable face of capitalism". Although the method was legal and fairly common in multinational companies — and seems relatively small beer today in the light of what privatised utility directors regularly award themselves — the phrase did lasting damage to the reputations of Lomrho and of Rowland himself. It also led — at the behest, it was said, of the Palace — to Angus Ogilvy's resignation from the Lomrho board, a grievous blow to Rowland.

As chief executive of Lomrho, he survived two other major challenges in the 1970s — a report by Department of Trade inspectors into his expenses, mainly to do with work on his Thames-side home at Hedor Wharf, and a plot to unseat him by his fellow directors, the so-called "straight eight", led by the ex-Cu-

ardard boss Sir Basil Smallpeice, who objected to his tyrannical methods of running a public company.

Rowland routed the rebels with the votes of the company's many small investors, who consistently showed an admiration and loyalty for Tiny (as they all tended to call him) denied to him by the banks and City institutions. Thereafter Rowland took pains to surround himself with boardroom ciphers, who were, for the most part, too weak or dependent to challenge his obsessions. (To the more irreverent outsiders who visited Lomrho's headquarters in Cheapside these directors were known as "the Crazy Gang".)

For years Lomrho had suffered as a company from a lack of earnings outside Africa, so Rowland bought a British steelworks, which lost millions. He next invested in casinos, then gave them up when he found them a distasteful business to run (Rowland was fastidious in his eating and drinking habits and an uxorious husband). When he finally

bought the textile firm of Brentford Nylons, this was cited by his regular *bête noire*, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, as a reason why he could not bid for House of Fraser, the Harrods stores group on which he had set his sights. This quest came to dominate his life and to unbalance his business strategy.

When his bid was frustrated by the MMC in 1985 — most experts now think unfairly — he lodged his shares with Mohamed Al Fayed, calculating that the Egyptian could not afford to buy the whole group. Al Fayed then outflanked him in one of the City's most spectacular coups, finding £615 million for the deal and persuading the Government to approve it. In retaliation, Rowland launched a relentless campaign to reverse the deal, using punchy, well-researched pamphlets and every possible legal device, arguing that the money had come from the Sultan of Brunei and that this merited a full Government inquiry.

Rowland made shameless use of the country's oldest Sunday newspaper, *The Observer*, which Lomrho had bought in 1981, to promote his campaign. His stewardship of *The Observer* was widely criticised (not least on one occasion by its own independent directors) for damaging its 200-year-old reputation.

In 1987, on the brink of a general election, his campaign to reopen the Harrods affair finally succeeded in forcing a DTI inquiry, which concluded that the Fayed brothers had indeed falsified their wealth and origins, but the Thatcher Government, by this time weary of Rowland's insults, took no further action.

In an ill-judged move, it was left for *The Observer* in March 1989 to reveal the contents of the report in a special midweek issue published to coincide the Lomrho AGM (the Attorney-General immediately obtained an injunction preventing its distribution).

Rowland's career thus ended in bitter defeat, eventually overturned by the man he brought in to save Lomrho, the German Dieter Bock, and with most of his old African friends either dead or chased out of power. The final blow — and the first sure indication that he had lost control of his own company — came with his being compelled in 1993 to sell *The Observer* to *The Guardian* Group.

He may have retained his yacht — from which he was flown back to Britain last week — but that playing never gave him the same satisfaction as owning his own quality newspaper. For that, and the loss of the company he had created, even the existence of a vast fortune estimated at 650 million never provided him with adequate compensation, though he was wryly amused, after such a flamboyant and exotic career, to see his wealth just two years ago exactly equated with that of the Queen.

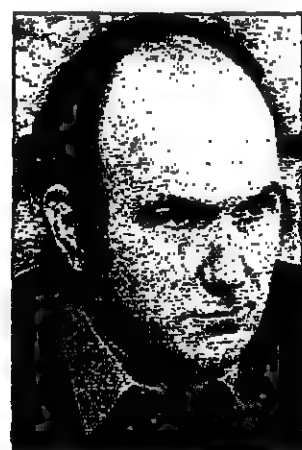
He leaves his widow, Josie, one son and three daughters.

JOHN HOPKINS

John Hopkins, playwright, drowned in the swimming pool of his Hollywood home on July 23 aged 67. He was born on January 27, 1931.

ALTHOUGH he had written plays for the stage, had a hand in several screenplays, written opera libretti and had also published novels, John Hopkins was quintessentially a television playwright. The medium, in which he was prolific in England in the 1960s and 1970s, was the one which seemed best to channel his natural gifts.

He is most obviously remembered as the generator of more than fifty scripts for the television series *Z Cars*, which enjoyed such immense success in the 1960s. Yet to his contemporaries in that heyday of television drama, Hopkins was thought of as being far more than merely a man who could churn out scripts to a popular formula. At that period, when television drama could still be thought of as delivering ideas of a weight and thoughtfulness to vie with the best that was happening on the contemporary stage, Hopkins enjoyed serious critical acclaim.



A new play from his pen commanded attention for the psychological depth of his themes and the rawness of the detail in which he explored them.

Indeed, an age like ours when a "warts and all" view of the police has become commonplace has to be reminded that before *Z Cars* the portrayal of the police had been largely the stuff of fantasy, and Hopkins was constantly having to defend the gritty realism he and his fellow scriptwriters imported into the series against attacks from the senior ranks

of the force itself. "Before *Z Cars* there were three types of phoney policemen," he recalled, when repelling yet another such attack, "either comic yokels on bikes, touching their forelocks and calling everyone sir; Scotland Yard glamor boys, or kindly old father figures like Dixon of Dock Green."

And he pointed out that complaints about *Z Cars* were invariably orchestrated from within the highest echelons of the Metropolitan force; the rank and file in Northern forces of the type *Z Cars* purported to depict generally acknowledged it as being a fair representation of their *modus operandi*. Its only crime, as far as authority was concerned, was that it depicted policemen as human beings, who drank, smoked, fancied the opposite sex and had the odd flutter on the horses.

John Richard Hopkins was born in southwest London and educated at Raynes Park Grammar School and St Catherine's College, Cambridge, where he read English. At first he had no ambition to write, and for some years his career in television was on the pro-

duction side. He was given a few opportunities to write, but on his own admission lacked the urgency to make the most of them at that time. But in 1962 he was asked by Granada to try his hand at an episode of *Z Cars* and from that point he never looked back. For the first time in his life he had to deliver; there was no question of not being in the mood — or even of having nothing to say. The deadline set the agenda and Hopkins suddenly found that this pressure was congenial to his temperament. The field research broadened his experience of life, too, and he enjoyed rubbing shoulders with the raw material of his stories.

Once hooked on writing for television and its potentialities he became, as he freely admitted, a creator of the compulsory school. An episode of *Z Cars* would detain him for no more than two days and he went on to write 57 of them in all. But his deepest satisfaction came from television's ability to get close up to the human psyche, in that era before sensation, soap operas and costume dramas had replaced psychological penetration, on



Hopkins, at left, and, above, the *Z Cars* team

the small screen. As a handler of small-scale human drama he was reckoned to have no peer, at his best. A drama like his four-part *Talking to a Stranger*, screened by BBC2, was widely regarded as being the most original contribution to television in the mid-1960s.

though Hopkins was later to say that he felt he had packed into it a quantity of the heavy emotional baggage he had carried round with him since his youth.

Hopkins's success in exploring serious themes on television encouraged him to try the

stage, and in 1968 his first play, *This Story of Yours*, which dealt with the moral disintegration of a failed police sergeant, was put on in London at the Royal Court. It had mixed notices. Its critics found a final, brutal scene in which the protagonist murders a suspect who has been arrested for the rape of a child, too much to stomach. Hopkins's confidence was tangibly shaken by its failure to transfer to the West End. Done again at Hampstead, in 1987, it appeared to be a play not so much about the problems germane to being a policeman, but about a violent individual who should never have been allowed into the police force in the first place.

this reception did not discourage Hopkins completely, and among his subsequent plays *Find Your Way Home* was done at the Open Space in 1970, while *Next of Kin* made it to the National Theatre in 1974. But Hopkins was always to say that he felt less confident about his stage work than he did about his television output.

From the early 1970s onwards Hopkins found himself

out of tune with the way television drama was going. He had already, with Richard Maibaum, co-written the screenplay for the James Bond film *Thunderball* (1965) and had followed it in 1969 with *The Virgin Soldiers*. In the mid-1970s, after his marriage to the actress Shirley Knight, he moved to America, living in Los Angeles, and then moving to Connecticut before finally going West again to settle in Hollywood. In America he always had plenty of screenwriting work. But his impact on British television drama was at an end. Nevertheless, the quality of his work can be savoured from the repeats which crop up from time to time.

John Hopkins married, firstly, Prudence Balchin, the daughter of the novelist Nigel Balchin. They had a daughter and a son, the latter dying in a road accident some years ago. This marriage was dissolved and he married, secondly, the actress Shirley Knight, who brought a stepdaughter to the marriage, of which there was also a daughter. Shirley Knight, her two daughters and the daughter of his first marriage survive him.

Church News

Appointments
The Rev Terry Challis, Vicar, Astley Bridge St Paul (Manchester): to be Priest-in-Charge, Leigh St Mary the Virgin (same diocese).
The Rev Jean Hall, Assistant Chaplain, Canterbury Thames Community Healthcare Trust (Canterbury): to be Priest-in-Charge, Brompton Regis, Upton and Skilgate (Bath & Wells).
The Rev Jim Hill, formerly of the Omega Order, Windsor (Bristol): to be Curate (known as Senior Assistant Priest), Somerton with Compton Durdon, the Charltons and Kingsdon (Bath & Wells).
The Rev Ian Hubbard, Vicar, Winscombe (Bath & Wells): to be Team Rector, Yatton Moor (same diocese).
The Rev Tony Humphries, Curate, Redford St Saviour (Southwell): to be Team Vicar,

Grantham with special responsibility for Spitalgate St John the Evangelist (Lincoln).
Canon Michael Insley, Priest-in-Charge, Stonegate (Chichester): to be Priest-in-Charge, Horsmonden, and also Diocesan Rural Officer (Rochester).
The Rev Penelope Jones, Priest-in-Charge, Stanhope w Frosterley, and Eastgate w Rookhope, and Adviser for Women's Ministry (Durham): to be also Honorary Canon of Durham Cathedral (same diocese).
The Rev Susan Kiddle, LNSM (Assistant Curate), Waddington St Michael (Lincoln): to be LNSM (Assistant Curate), Bricebridge All Saints (same diocese).
The Rev Kenneth Macnab, Librarian, Pusey House, Oxford (Oxford): to be Priest-in-Charge, Tunbridge Wells St

Barnabas (Rochester).
The Rev Michael Norman, Team Vicar, Uphill (Bath & Wells): to be Rector, Bath St Saviour w Swainswick and Woolley (same diocese).
The Rev David Pettifor, Vicar, Fincham St Martin in the Fields (Coventry): to be Team Vicar, Coventry Caludon with special responsibility for Holy Cross (same diocese).
The Rev Christine Pollard, Curate, Nuneaton St Nicolas (Coventry): to be Priest-in-Charge, Bourton w Frankton and Streton on Dunsmore w Princethorpe (same diocese).
The Rev Malcolm Raby, Team Vicar, Ely with special responsibility for Stretham and Little Thetford (Ely): to be Priest-in-Charge, Over St Mary, and Adviser in Mission and Evangelism (same diocese).
The Rev Peter Richmond,

Priest-in-Charge, Weston L Zoyland w Chedzoy (Bath & Wells): to be also Chaplain for Ministry, Taunton Archdeaconry (same diocese).
The Rev John Ruffie, Priest-in-Charge, Chew Stoke w Nempnett Trubwell (Bath & Wells): to be also Bishop's Adviser in Pastoral Care and Counselling for Clergy and their Families (same diocese).
The Rev Mike Saunders, Team Vicar, Eccles St Andrew and St Mary the Virgin (Manchester): to be also Adviser in Evangelism (same diocese).
The Rev Matthew Thompson, Assistant Curate, Cosham St Philip (Portsmouth): to be Curate (known as Senior Assistant Priest), Nallose Christ Church w Tickenham (Bath & Wells).

SCHOOL LEAVING AGE TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, Five months have elapsed since Mr. MacDonald, as Prime Minister, stated in reply to the question from the School Age Council that the Board of Education and the Scottish Education Department had been charged with the re-examination of the question of raising the school-leaving age. The reflection that the school age question has been before successive Governments for nearly a decade, and that in the nature of things, the Education Department must know about it nearly all that can be known, encourages the hope that a declaration of policy will not be very much longer delayed.

While awaiting the pronouncement of the Government we may be allowed to emphasize and amplify the submission of our letter which appeared in *The Times* of February 20 last, in which we called attention to the growing agreement among all sections of the community both as to the desirability and the urgency of the proposed reform. This agreement is to-day virtually complete. Has there ever been a case in which a government has hesitated to adopt a measure supported by two, perhaps by all three, of the political parties, all the rel-

ON THIS DAY

July 27, 1935

The correspondents could have been justified in stricter censure of the Government, in February 1931 the Lords had rejected Trevelyan's Bill to raise the age to 15. The Butler Act of 1944 made provision for it but it did not come into operation until 1949.

gious communities, the social agencies, the representative organizations of women, all the trade unions, the numerous organizations of the cooperative movement and the authorities of local government almost without exception? It is not necessary to exclude the employers from this list. The League of Industry, of which the president is Lord Nuffield, announced many months ago its decision to support the raising of the school-leaving age, and the School Age Council has a long, impressive and rapidly growing list of the names of the heads of great firms who endorse its policy. The

speeches delivered by employers at the recent conference convened by the British Association for Commercial and Industrial Education indicated practical unanimity both as to the necessity of quickly raising the school-leaving age and of supplementing this reform by some amount of part-time or continued education...
An inquiry now in progress at Toynbee Hall shows, in common with many other such inquiries, that a high proportion of children leaving school at 14 blunder and stumble into employment for which they are physically unfitted, to their serious and perhaps enduring injury.
Lastly, as regards health and wellbeing, the feeling among the workers in the special areas should be noted. It is not too much to say that in Northumberland and Durham there is a profound and general protest against the folly of releasing from school at the age of 14 children who are destined merely further to overcrowd the congested labour market, and a widespread demand that the rising generation should be retained at school for, at least, another year.
Yours, &c.,
TWEEDSMUIR (Chairman).
J.J. MALLON (Hon. Secretary)
Toynbee Hall, Commercial Street, E1.

[illegible]

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Draw puts added pressure on the champion

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ARAN WAINWRIGHT opens his defence of the English Amateur Championship over the Hotchkiss course at Woodhall Spa this morning. Wainwright, 22, from Yorkshire, was a surprise winner when he defeated Philip Rowe, the teenager, in the final at Royal Liverpool last year; this time, he will carry the extra weight of expectation.

His first-round opponent in the second quarter of the draw is Craig Humphrey, from the Basingstoke club. Wainwright finds himself in a tough section in which the other seeds include Graeme Storm and Kenneth Ferrie, two of the country's emerging talents.

Mark Hilton, from Sussex, who reached the semi-finals of the Amateur Championship at Muirfield this season, begins his challenge against Kelvin Mercer in the first quarter of the draw. Hilton, who has won already the Berkshire Trophy this season, was the only player to trouble Sergio Garcia, the winner at Muirfield.

Scott Godfrey, who won the Carris Trophy last week, and his elder brother, Kristian, are in action today, but Gary Wolstenholme, who has yet to win an English title — a feat accomplished twice by his late father, Guy — makes his bow tomorrow.

It will be the fifth time that Woodhall Spa has hosted the championship and the winner will join an impressive list that includes Michael Bonallack, Mark James and David Gifford.

Ray Floyd bogeyed two of the last five holes but still had a round of 73, two over par, to lead the US Senior Open at the Riviera Country Club in California by three strokes.

Bobby Verwey, of South Africa, had a final round of 68 to secure a two-shot victory in the Credit Suisse Seniors Open at Bag Ragaz, near Zurich.

Mental toughness of Australian gets him through emotional afternoon

Leaney wards off all challengers

FROM MEL WEBB
IN HILVERSUM

STEPHEN LEANEY produced every ounce of his navigational skills to sail to victory in the TNT Dutch Open yesterday after spending a long, fraught afternoon repelling boarders from all quarters. Leaney won his second title of the season with a closing 67 and a total of 266, 18 under par, in the face of attacks from marauding Britons and others.

Leaney, 29, took the Moroccan Open by eight strokes in March, which remains the largest winning margin on the European Tour this year, but this victory was always going to be harder to earn. He was two strokes ahead going into the final round and, with birdies being scattered over the Hilversum course like confetti at a wedding, the slightest slip could, and probably would, bring doom and despondency.

The expected challenge of Lee Westwood, who has played as well as anybody in world golf in the past nine months, never quite came to fruition. It says something for the standards that are now expected of the young Englishman that he could finish with a 67 and have it regarded as a comparative failure. There were people competing here yesterday who would have given their favourite pitching wedge for a 67.

Westwood, who finished in a tie for third place with Nick Price, two strokes behind the winner, had a muted front nine but played the inward nine holes in four under par to match Leaney's score. What he achieved was not quite enough and came a little too late, though he could take considerable consolation in the fact that he increased his lead over Colin Montgomerie in the Volvo rankings to £153,000. If Montgomerie is to be Europe's biggest money-winner for the sixth consecutive year, he is going to have to start winning soon.

With Westwood having to accept a place, for a change, in the shadows, the main British competition to Leaney came from Darren Clarke, the strapping Ulsterman, who became the third player of the week to equal the course record of 63. Clarke made only one error — he dropped a shot when he took three putts at the 11th. The rest was so close to being perfect as to make no



Leaney shows his delight after capturing his second trophy of the season, courtesy of a final-round 67, in the TNT Dutch Open yesterday

difference as he finished one stroke behind the winner.

The headiest moment of Clarke's round was his eagle three at the par-five 4th, but he was ferociously aggressive from first drive to final putt. The first of his seven birdies came at the 1st and the last at the 18th; in between, he played as well as he has all season, including his winning effort in the Benson and Hedges International in May.

Well though Clarke, Westwood, Price and a handful of others played on a day that might have been purpose-built for low scoring — balmy temperatures, precious little in the way of wind, receptive greens — nothing should be allowed to detract from Leaney's performance, which

won him £133,330. The Western Australian is not one of nature's extroverts, but it would be a gross error to mistake his quiet exterior for a lack of competitive juices. "I may look mild on the outside, but I am a very hard competitor on the inside," he said. "I try not to get up and down — over the years I've learnt to try to stay on the same level."

His inner hardness served him well on this day. He was, on the face of it, a leader who was ripe for the beating, a

family saloon waiting to be passed by some exotic sporting machinery on his tail, but if he spent the afternoon looking in his rear-view mirror, he did not show it. They all took a dart at him — none could overtake.

He was on a personal mission here, but he was also playing with his thoughts going out to Stuart Appleby, a close friend and fellow professional. Renay, Appleby's wife, was killed in a road traffic accident in London on Thursday and neither was out of Leaney's mind for long as he achieved the best performance of his career.

"It really didn't matter what I shot today, because even if I had lost, it would have been no big deal compared what has

happened to Stuart," Leaney said. "When that sort of thing happens, it tends to put golf tournaments into perspective."

Leaney birdied the 1st hole and had two more as he moved through the turn on 17 under par. Clarke was his main pursuer at that point and continued to be so through a back nine filled with thrust and counter-thrust.

The only moment that Leaney was under threat was on the 18th, where he missed the fairway behind a tree. He had to get down in four from there to avoid a play-off; coolly and calmly, he took all of them. He had played the previous 71 holes like a champion; there was no way in the world that he was going to falter now.

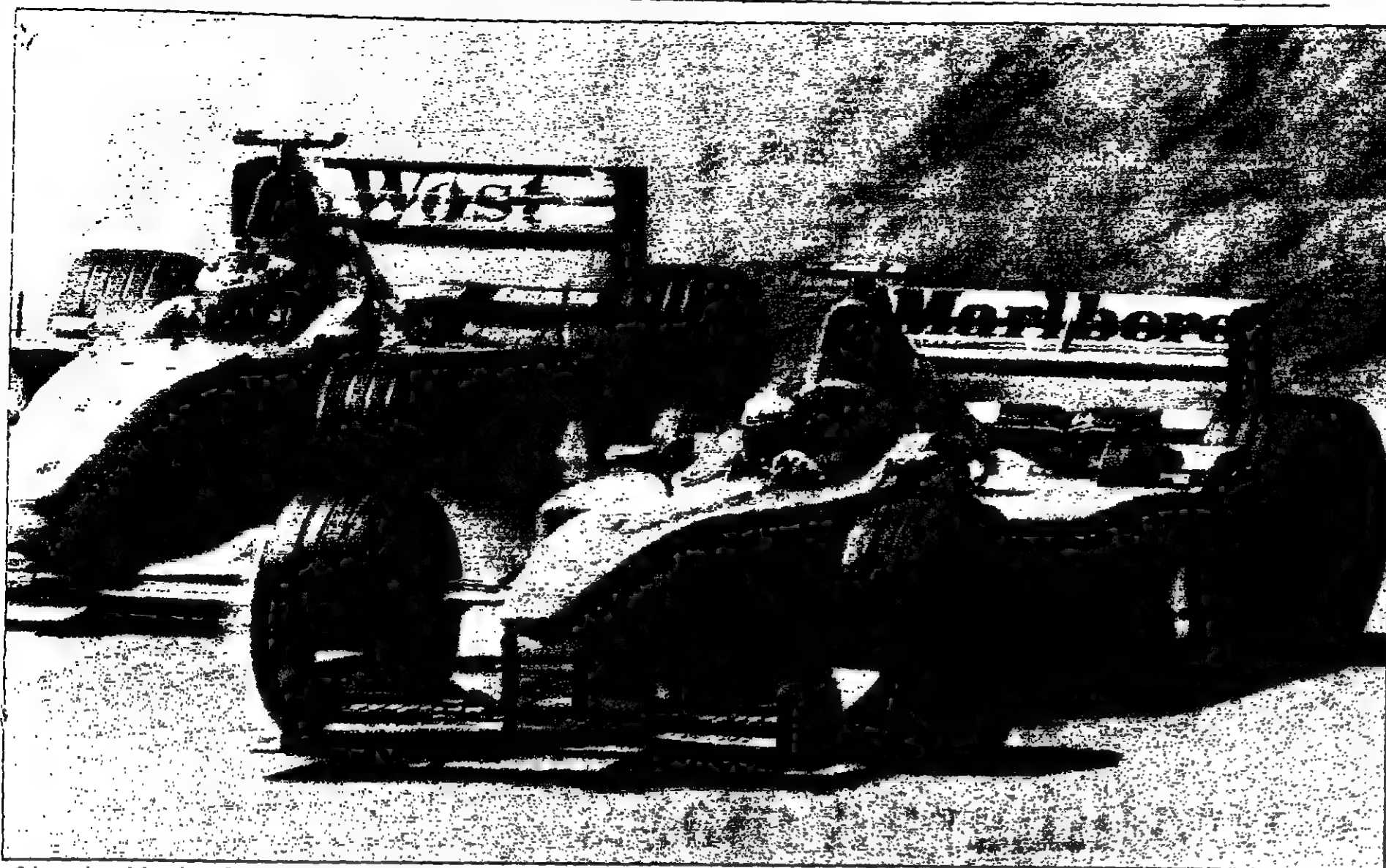
SCORES FROM HILVERSUM

LEADING FINAL SCORES (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 266: S Leaney (Aus) 63, 63, 70, 67, 266; D Clarke (GB) 67, 63, 266; N Price (GB) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; L Westwood (GB) 68, 68, 72, 67, 266; C Montgomerie (US) 67, 68, 68, 68, 266; P Baker (GB) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; J Palmer (GB) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; J Hilton (GB) 67, 68, 68, 68, 266; S Verwey (SA) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; B Verwey (SA) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; G Storm (GB) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; K Ferrie (GB) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; M Bonallack (GB) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; M James (GB) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; D Gifford (GB) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; R Floyd (US) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; B Verwey (SA) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; P Baker (GB) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; J Palmer (GB) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; J Hilton (GB) 67, 68, 68, 68, 266; S Verwey (SA) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; B Verwey (SA) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; G Storm (GB) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; K Ferrie (GB) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; M Bonallack (GB) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; M James (GB) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; D Gifford (GB) 68, 68, 68, 68, 266; 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DAY JULY 27 1998

Coulthard battles through the field to claim a 'fairytale' second place



Schumacher, right, tries to force his way round the outside of Hakkinen but the Finn holds the racing line to see off the German's challenge at the Austrian Grand Prix yesterday

Hakkinen leads McLaren charge

FROM KEVIN EASON
IN ZELTWEG

THIS was the day for strong men resilient enough to withstand events that can shatter dreams and shorten careers. When the test came at the Austrian Grand Prix yesterday, Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard, of the McLaren team, were more than ready. They produced performances that broke the spirits of Michael Schumacher, who finished third, with Eddie Irvine fourth.

The manoeuvre that took Schumacher past his teammate looked stage-managed and Ron Dennis, the McLaren Mercedes team director, called it a charade. The Ferrari team was quick to claim that Irvine had brake problems, but others concluded that the "problems" were the consequence of team orders to ensure as many points as possible for the German former champion.

On the day that Irvine's place for next year at Ferrari was confirmed, the Irishman looked faintly embarrassed when asked to explain his sudden loss of speed once Schumacher was on his tail. Ferrari's shenanigans were a distraction, though, from a race that had drawn the best out of McLaren.

Hakkinen won the race with a drive of consummate skill and calm, resisting a series of attacks from Schumacher that would have frightened most drivers into a gravel trap. Yet Coulthard's second place perhaps merits greater acclaim, not just because he sliced his way through from last place but because of the circumstances in which he was forced to prove himself fit for Formula One.

The Scotsman came to Zeltweg haunted by the failures of the past four races and his problems seemed to have been compounded when he could qualify only fourteenth on the grid. Trouble seemed to have found him again at the second corner, when the Arrows of Pedro Diniz and Mika Salo collided in front of him.

Coulthard stopped, only for Salo to spin his car as he tried to spin his car to face the right way. For once, the fates were kind, though, for officials had brought out the safety car while Tora Takagi's stranded Tyrrell was cleared from the first bend, allowing Coulthard to dash to the pits for a new nose cone and come back out in nineteenth — last — place.

Then he started a drive that Dennis described as "a fairytale, his best race in Formula One". He reeled in car after car, sweeping past top drivers — Jacques Villeneuve, Johnny Herbert, Jean Alesi, Damon Hill and Ralf Schumacher among them.

THE RACE FOR THE DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1. Hakkinen	10	10	8	10	10	4	6	10				66
2. M Schumacher	4	10	6	4	10	10	10	4				56
3. Coulthard	6	1	10	6	4	1	1	4				38
4. Irvine	3		4	4	4	4	4	4				32
5. Villeneuve		3	3		3	3	3	3				27
6. Fisichella		1			6	6	2					15
7. Villeneuve	2		3	1	2	3		1				12
8. Frentzen	4	2		2								8
9. Barrichello					2							4
10. Alesi			2	1								3
11. Salo					3							3
12. R Schumacher						1	2					2
13. Herbert												1
14. Diniz												1
15. Magnussen						1						1

neuve, Johnny Herbert, Jean Alesi, Damon Hill and Ralf Schumacher among them. "After all the criticism, it was a fantastic performance," Norbert Haug, head of Mercedes Motorsport, said. "He was really down, but I told him he could do it and he really drove incredibly."

Nobody was more taken aback than Hakkinen when he discovered that he was being chased by his teammate. "It was unbelievable," he said. "David started fourteenth on the grid and here he is right behind me."

The odds had been stacked against the McLaren, with

Hakkinen third on the grid behind the Benetton of Giancarlo Fisichella on pole and the Sauber of Jean Alesi. With Schumacher alongside, Hakkinen needed the best start of his life — and he got it. He streaked between Fisichella and Alesi, closing the door on Schumacher, who moved into second.

Yet the McLaren was heavier than the Ferrari, on a full fuel load for a one-stop strategy, allowing Schumacher to harry Hakkinen. The Finn refused to be intimidated and eventually it was Schumacher who cracked, with a costly mistake on lap 17, skating

through a gravel trap that shattered his nose cone and forced him to trail back to the pits for repairs. Hakkinen looked in his wing mirrors and, for the first time in almost 20 minutes, they were clear of the fiery red Ferrari.

"That was a good feeling," Hakkinen said. "It meant I could get on with the race and just concentrate on making sure there were no mistakes." It also gave Fisichella a chance to go second, an opportunity that he foolishly spurned five laps later. He emerged from his first pit stop with Alesi and decided that he must not give way, a decision he will rue

today. Alesi pulled slightly ahead into a right-hander and claimed the racing line, forcing the Benetton up on to the kerb, with Fisichella clearly unable to brake in time.

They collided and left Zeltweg with no reward for their qualifying performance. The auction meant that Irvine found himself second, but Coulthard soon ran him down too, claiming the fastest lap on his way.

Now it was Schumacher's turn to struggle through the field, though from tenth place. For four laps, his only obstacle was his younger brother, Ralf, who had his Jordan in fourth place. Ralf, only 23, refused to defer until he was overwhelmed by the Ferrari's superior performance.

Once on his way, Schumacher simply had to catch Irvine, who was losing two seconds a lap to his teammate. But the effort was too late anyway, with the McLaren on their way to victory celebrations that they have dreamed about for the past two months.

Hakkinen now has a clear world championship lead over Schumacher and Coulthard is deservedly back on track. The likeable Scot said last week that he wanted to drive with a smile on his face again; last night, his was the broadest grin in Austria.

Grid turns season on its head

FROM KEVIN EASON

RON DENNIS looked at his watch and then peered up at the black clouds rolling in from the mountains that surround the Zeltweg circuit. The McLaren Mercedes team weatherman told him to expect torrential rain at midday on Saturday, an hour before the start of qualifying, and, right on cue, the heavens opened. At that moment, the optimism that had filled the McLaren garage washed away with the rain, which poured across the circuit.

The storm proved that Formula One is as much about clear thinking as driving and engineering. How else could you explain a starting grid yesterday that had a Benetton on pole with a Sauber alongside, as well as a Stewart-Ford and Arrows in their highest positions of the year on the

third row, ahead of both Williams, a Ferrari and a McLaren?

Too many teams misread the variations in Zeltweg's curious micro-climate. Weathermen promised a break in the rain and a fast-drying track, yet Damon Hill was second out on to a drenched

QUALIFYING

1. G. Fisichella (Benetton) 1:30.217; 2. J. Alesi (Sauber) 1:30.217; 3. M. Hakkinen (McLaren) 1:30.517; 4. M. Schumacher (Mercedes) 1:30.551; 5. R. Barrichello (Sauber) 1:31.006; 6. M. Salo (Arrows) 1:31.029; 7. J. Villeneuve (Mercedes) 1:31.651; 8. R. Schumacher (Jordan) 1:31.917; 9. D. Frentzen (Prost) 1:32.081; 10. J. Villeneuve (Williams) 1:32.083; 11. J. Villeneuve (Williams) 1:32.083; 12. J. Villeneuve (Williams) 1:32.083; 13. P. Diniz (Arrows) 1:32.282; 14. D. Coulthard (McLaren) 1:32.282; 15. D. Hill (Benetton) 1:32.718; 16. J. Alesi (Sauber) 1:32.926; 17. A. Wurz (Arrows) 1:33.188; 18. J. Herbert (Sauber) 1:33.282; 19. T. Takagi (Jordan) 1:33.282; 20. J. Takagi (Jordan) 1:33.282; 21. S. Nakano (Minardi) 1:34.050; 22. S. Nakano (Minardi) 1:34.910.

circuit. Few held their nerve to wait for a dry run and most decided to register a "banker" time on full wet tyres.

Yet the clever ones knew that the fastest times would be set at the end of the session on quicker, intermediate tyres, though they needed extra laps to heat them for optimum grip. Hill knew that too, but claimed that the team sent him out early, an inexplicable decision given the former world champion's experience.

Even Michael Schumacher, "The Rainmaster", failed to read the conditions for once and left it too late to switch to intermediates, as did the McLaren pair of David Coulthard and Mika Hakkinen. Eddie Irvine, in the second Ferrari, did not even use intermediates to qualify only eighth.

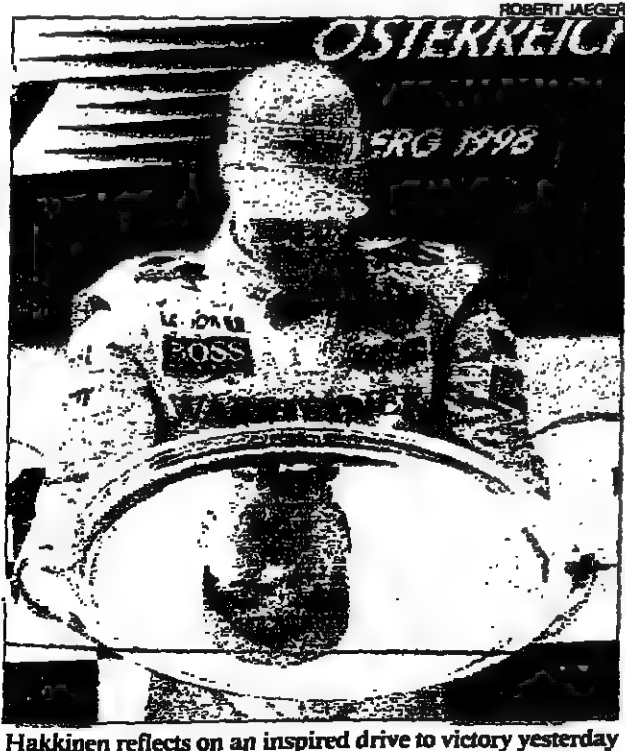
It was only when the Stewart-Ford of Rubens Barrichello and the Sauber of Jean Alesi swept to the head of the time charts that the leading teams realised their error — and then it was too late. Hill, Hakkinen and Schumacher ran out of time while Coulthard's desperation led to a spin that cost him pole position.

At Benetton, though, Giancarlo Fisichella was sailing to the first pole of his career — and the first by an Italian driver in six years — because his timing was perfect. On intermediates, he set his fastest time of 1:30.217sec on his final flying lap, when the rain had almost evaporated.

In fact, the top eight times were all set within the last two minutes as the chequered flag came out to signal the end of the session. And then the rain started to fall again, just as the McLaren weatherman had told his team director.

McRae trails Burns by just under ten seconds, but is comfortable in fourth before the tight battle for fifth place between Finnish drivers Juha Kankkunen and Tommi Makinen, the world champion, who are separated by 1.3sec. The rally resumes today with five stages to go for a total distance of 182.38 kilometres.

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Hakkinen reflects on an inspired drive to victory yesterday

Rydel maintains title lead

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

DESPITE failing to win either race at Snetterton yesterday, Rickard Rydel maintained his lead in the Auto Trader RAC British touring car championship. The Volvo driver from Sweden claimed fifth place in the sprint race — won by Anthony Reid in a Nissan — and was second to the Honda of James Thompson.

Rydel went to Snetterton with a 42-point lead over Alain Menu, the reigning champion, of Renault, and left the Norfolk track with an identical points advantage, albeit with Thompson now his closest challenger. In the manufacturers' title race, Nissan

has regained the advantage over Volvo, with Renault a close third. The sprint race provided Reid with the opportunity to demonstrate his new-found consistency, the Nissan's excellent handling balance and the massive advantage that pole position provides at Snetterton, one of the trickiest circuits for overtaking on the Auto Trader BTCC calendar.

The Scot made an impeccable getaway as the man alongside him, Menu, spun his wheels momentarily. The Swiss star's error was just the

opportunity that Jason Plato, his Renault team-mate, was seeking: the Briton stole into second place as the pack bore down on Riches Corner.

Menu recovered sufficiently to hold off the Honda of Peter Kox for third, with Thompson, in the other works Accord, taking fifth ahead of Rydel. Plato hung tenaciously to the Primera's bootlid, slipping slightly further back only when Menu was attempting to seize third place.

In the end, a change of position depended on one of the top three making an error, but each drove impeccably all the way to the chequered flag.

Auriol excels in the downpour

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

DIDIER AURIOL, of France, opened a 30-second lead in the New Zealand Rally yesterday to put himself within sight of his second victory of the year.

Auriol, who had led Carlos Sainz, his Toyota team-mate, by 2.2sec overnight, recorded the fastest time on five of the eight stages making up the second leg of the race. It gave him a 30.4sec advantage over the Spaniard on a day marred by bad weather. A torrential downpour caused two stages to be cancelled because of flooding.

Sainz, who trails Colin McRae, the world champion-ship leader, by five points, was

left bemused at how his team-mate managed to establish such a commanding lead, especially as Auriol had to contend with a broken wheel on stages 12 and 13. "I can't pin down why Didier was able to be so much quicker than me," Sainz said. "I had no problems or any major difficulties."

Richard Burns, driving a Mitsubishi, moved into third place ahead of McRae after the Subaru driver spun on the twelfth stage at Ararua. McRae, who won the New Zealand Rally three years running between 1993 and

1995, was further hampered on the penultimate stage when he slid, damaging his steering. "In general, the stages were not too bad today," he said. "Certainly not as bad as everyone thought they might be."

McRae trails Burns by just under ten seconds, but is comfortable in fourth before the tight battle for fifth place between Finnish drivers Juha Kankkunen and Tommi Makinen, the world champion, who are separated by 1.3sec. The rally resumes today with five stages to go for a total distance of 182.38 kilometres.

AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX RESULTS

1. Mika Hakkinen (Fin) McLaren-Mercedes 1hr 30min 44.085sec; 2. David Coulthard (GB) McLaren-Mercedes at 5.283sec; 3. Michael Schumacher (Ger) Ferrari at 39.093sec; 4. Eddie Irvine (Ire) Ferrari at 43.957sec; 5. Ralf Schumacher (Ger) Jordan-Mugen Honda at 50.655sec; 6. Jacques Villeneuve (Can) Williams-Mercedes at 53.202sec; 7. Damon Hill (GB) Jordan-Mugen Honda at 1min 13.62sec; 8. Johnny Herbert (GB) Sauber-Petronas at 1 lap; 9. Alexander Wurz (Austria) Benetton-Mecachrome at 1 lap; 10. Jarno Trulli (It) Prost-Peugeot at 1 lap; 11. Shoji Umehara (Japan) Minardi-Ford at 1 lap; 12. Ricardo Rosset (Br) Tyrrell-Ford at 2 laps.

Did not finish: 13. Jos Verstappen (Hol) Stewart 51 laps; 14. Esteban Tuero (Arg) Minardi 20 laps; 15. Giancarlo Fisichella (It) Benetton 21 laps; 16. Jean Alesi (Fr) Sauber 21 laps; 17. Heinz-Harald Frentzen (Ger) Williams 16 laps; 18. Rubens Barrichello (Br) Stewart 8 laps; 19. Pedro Diniz (Br) Arrows 3 laps; 20. Mika Salo (Fin) Arrows 1 lap; 21. Olivier Panis (Fr) Prost 0 laps; 22. Toranosuke Takagi (Japan) Tyrrell 0 laps.

Fastest lap: Giancarlo Fisichella 1:29.878sec (ave 213.348mph)

THE RACES TO COME:
August 2: Germany (Nurburgring)
August 23: Hungary (Hungaroring)
August 30: Belgium (Spa-Francorchamps)
September 13: Britain (Silverstone)
September 27: Luxembourg (Suzuka)
November 1: Japan (Suzuka)

WEST McLAREN
Position: 1
Points: 102

8. Mika Hakkinen
Position: 1
Points: 66
1998 best: 1

7. David Coulthard
Position: 3
Points: 38
1998 best: 1

SCUDERIA FERRARI
MARLBORO
Position: 2
Points: 90

4. Eddie Irvine
Position: 4
Points: 32
1998 best: 2

3. Michael Schumacher
Position: 2
Points: 56
1998 best: 1

BENETTON
FORMULA ONE
Position: 3
Points: 82

5. Giancarlo Fisichella
Position: 6
Points: 15
1998 best: 2

6. Alexander Wurz
Position: 5
Points: 17
1998 best: 4

WINFIELD WILLIAMS
Position: 4
Points: 20

2. Heinz-Harald Frentzen
Position: 8
Points: 6
1998 best: 3

1. Jacques Villeneuve
Position: 7
Points: 12
1998 best: 4

STEWART
FORD
Position: 5
Points: 8

18. Rubens Barrichello
Position: 9
Points: 4
1998 best: 5

19. Jos Verstappen
1998 best: 12

SAUBER
PETRONAS
Position: 6
Points: 4

14. Johnny Herbert
Position: 13
Points: 1
1998 best: 6

15. Jean Alesi
Position: 10
Points: 3
1998 best: 5

DANKA
ARROWS
Position: 6
Points: 4

17. Mika Salo
Position: 10
Points: 3
1998 best: 4

JORDAN
MUGEN-HONDA
Position: 8
Points: 3

9. Damon Hill
1998 best: 7

10. Ralf Schumacher
Position: 10
Points: 3
1998 best: 5

PROST
PEUGEOT

11. Olivier Panis
1998 best: 9

12. Jarno Trulli
1998 best: 9

TYRRELL
FORD

20. Toranosuke Takagi
1998 best: 11

21. Ricardo Rosset
1998 best: 8

MINARDI
TEAM

22. Shoji Nakano
1998 best: 7

23. Esteban Tuero
1998 best: 8

Surrey let Knott out to display his talent

By IVO TENNANT

CHELTENHAM (Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire (4pts) beat Surrey by 22 runs

IN THE four seasons in which he has been on Surrey's staff, James Knott has been given all too few opportunities. On the final day of the Cheltenham Festival, he made 98 off 95 balls, his highest score for the county, which, in partnership with Jason Ratcliffe, gave them a fair chance of beating Gloucestershire. That they were not victorious had much to do with losing their first four wickets all too cheaply.

Surrey's form in this competition has been quite mystifying. How a side with so many free strikers of a ball, albeit some of them playing for England yesterday, can excel in the Britannic Assurance county championship while winning just one Axa League match is extraordinary. Their first four wickets went for 26 here. Brown and Ben Hollis among them, and neither Walsh nor the injured Smith had gained any success.

That Surrey made this into a contest was owing to a fifth-wicket partnership of no little resourcefulness between Knott, who cut, lofted and glided the ball into the gaps, and Ratcliffe, who looked to thump it. They added 157.

The latter struck Alleyne's first ball over the square leg boundary, hit him on to the roof of a tent at mid-wicket and, in the same over, the third, lifted him for a further six.

When Lewis replaced Alleyne, Ratcliffe belted his first ball into another tent on the leg side. He was dropped off the next on the cover boundary, but, advancing down the pitch in the same over, was bowled. As well as his four sixes, there were five fours in his 80, which came off 70 balls. Then Knott was dropped at deep mid-wicket on 91, the ball going for four.

Gloucestershire had made a less faltering start and there were notable contributions throughout. Dawson, dropped on 20, made 68 off 83 balls with 12 fours and Windows managed 59 from 53 balls.

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The match still seemed before John Wood bowled Steffen Jones, with three balls remaining, to ensure Durham's first Axa League victory since May 10.

There can be few greater tests of a player's mettle than to run out the captain. To make matters worse, that captain was David Boon, whose 37-ball innings had produced 33. It is, therefore, reasonable to assume that Nick Speak is made of the requisite material as he is anointed by underpinning Durham innings with an unbeaten 90.

The pair had been brought together when Andy Caddick accounted for John Morris, whereupon Boon dominated a 47-run stand in nine overs with Speak. But fatal middle-order indecision effected the demise of an enraged Boon.

In time, the guilt subsided.

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CRICKET: SRI LANKAN OFF SPINNER WEAVES HIS SPELL AND GIVES ENGLAND FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Tillekeratne, the Sri Lankan left-hander, cuts Crowe for four during his century at Grace Road yesterday as the touring team move towards a morale-boosting win

By THASIS PETROPOULOS

LEICESTER (third day of four): Leicestershire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 30 runs behind the Sri Lankans

FOR England to succeed against Sri Lanka this summer, they will need to find an answer to Muralitharan. The off-spinner took the first four wickets to fall as the touring team closed in on a morale-boosting victory yesterday.

Muralitharan's ten-wicket haul in the Sri Lankans' previous match at Cardiff included five in the second innings, when Glamorgan were chasing only 53. This batch, which includes three wickets in the first innings, should prove decisive, weather permitting, today.

Matthew Maynard, the Glamorgan captain, spoke of the angle of Muralitharan's attack, coming in from wide of the crease, being unlike anything he or his players had faced before. An action that has been viewed with suspicion in the past, but has been cleared as legal by the International Cricket Council.

national Cricket Council, lends a measure of spin to the ball rivalled only by Saqlain Mushtaq in the game today. Iain Sutherland barely lifted bat on ball in the over before lunch and there was to be no reprieve after the interval when, playing Muralitharan into the ground, the ball spun back sharply on to the stumps.

For all that, it was more the variation in flight and changes of pace that accounted for his next three victims. Darren Stevens and Aftab Habib paid the price for playing back on a two-paced pitch to fall leg-before to balls that hurried through and Darren Maddy was picked up via bat and pad at silly point.

Muralitharan apart, though, there was little to discomfort the home team. Chandika Hathurusinghe failed to find the movement of the first innings and Ben Smith shared partnerships of 84 with Habib and 55 with Paul Nixon before checking a leg-side push off De Silva and popping a catch to short leg.

For a player almost certain of his Test place, Pramodya Wickramasinghe was treated with little respect by Smith, who three times in one over pulled fours either side of square leg to reach a defiant fifty. The Sri Lankans will be hoping that Chaminda Vaas, a left-arm seamer bowler, proves his fitness against South Africa in Colombo after an operation on his ankle and joins the party before the limited-overs triangular tournament, which starts on August 14.

The Sri Lankans opted against a declaration when play resumed and therefore the opportunity to take advantage of the helpful bowling conditions present in the first hour and a half of the previous two days, despite a lead of 197. Hashan Tillekeratne, 91 not out overnight, was able to complete the second century of the innings, after Arjuna Ranatunga, his captain, on Saturday.

A declaration may well have precipitated an early conclusion, but the decision had merit in view of the Sri Lankans' indifferent performances against county opposition before this match.

Of their front-line batsmen, only Sanath Jayasuriya has now failed to register a score of note at some stage on this tour. A brief but breezy innings on Saturday, however, is clear indication that there is little wrong with his form. Doubtless the fireworks are being primed for England.

A Leicestershire side short of four first-team regulars has fared as well as could have been expected. Reducing the touring side to 89 for three will have brought hope, but the loss of David Millns, who twisted his left ankle during his solitary over on Friday, was a loss an already thin bowling attack could ill afford.

Jon Dakin, who top-scored with 79 in the first innings and remains undefeated on 19 second time around, stood up manfully to his elevated status and bowled more overs than he had in any match this season. He was denied a five-wicket haul by Habib spilling a catch at fine leg off Perera.

Muralitharan magic sets up winning hope

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THE odds on Hampshire winning the Axa League, having been in shock place before the start, lengthened considerably after this defeat by Nottinghamshire, who can now look more realistically at winning a place in the top division of next season's national league.

Chasing 168 to win in 37 overs, Hampshire made a promising start, but then lost four wickets for seven runs in the space of 20 balls to slip from a comfortable 45 for one to a distinctly unhealthy 52 for four. John Stephenson, their former captain, was defiant at the other end, hitting straight sixes off Kevin Evans and Richard Bates in an innings of 59, the only half-century of the match and Stephenson's second successive Axa League fifty.

Chris Tolley, the left-arm seamer, took the first three Hampshire wickets in eight balls and Paul Strang, the Zimbabwe leg spinner, who had earlier made a valuable 28 in 16 balls, had Robin Smith, returning from a finger injury, leg-before for a single.

The combination of Stephenson and Dimitri Mascarenhas produced 52 in 13 overs for the fifth wicket, but their departure in the space of four overs, both caught at deep mid-wicket by Graeme Archer, made Hampshire's requirement unfeasible.

Having been inserted on a pitch that offered something to the accurate seamer and had the capacity to surprise with steep bounce, Nottinghamshire made a dreadful start. Nixon McLean had Guy Watton leg-before with one that cut back in the second over and five overs later Johnson, the captain, was not far enough forward to Cardiff Connor.

The third-wicket partnership between Jason Gallian and Archer, which yielded 60 in 13 overs, was vital to Nottinghamshire's progress. Gallian was caught behind off Peter Hartley for 31, but Dowman stepped into the breach with a stout 22 that included a finely swept six off Shaun Udal. However, his dismissal left Nottinghamshire 122 for six in the 33rd over, and some way from a challenging total.

Strang, though, and Franks struck the ball with purpose and conviction in a partnership of 45 from only 25 balls. Strang hit Udal for 25, straight six and then, in the penultimate over of the innings, he lofted Stephenson straight for four and Franks chipped one four through mid-wicket and slashed another through Smith to the extra-cover boundary.

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Langer rejuvenates Middlesex

By BARNEY SPENDER

LORD'S (Yorkshire won toss): Middlesex (4pts) beat Yorkshire by 58 runs (D/L method)

AFTER two defeats in two days earlier in the week, Middlesex renewed their interest in the Axa League with a comprehensive win over Yorkshire at Lord's.

A wonderful 86 from Justin Langer, their Australian opener, set them up in a rain-affected match. Tim Bloomfield and Chris Ball then ensured that Yorkshire would get nowhere near the revised target of 187 by reducing them to 39 for five.

Middlesex had, in fact, only made 177 for four, but that was upgraded under the Duckworth/Lewis system because of the rain that arrived after ten overs of their innings, by which stage they had scored 42 for the loss of Keith Brown. When the game resumed, it had been reduced to a 28-over contest.

At any rate, a win was welcome relief, no matter how it came, for a side that, after being among the front-runners all season, has shown signs of fallibility of late.

Eight days ago, Middlesex provided Surrey with their first win of the season as they slipped to a one-run defeat at Guildford and last Monday, in a match also affected by the weather, they were well beaten by Sussex under lights. A third defeat would have left them struggling to keep pace with Lancashire and Essex.

Fortunately they had Langer, whose innings, even under the conditions of one-day cricket, was a thing of some splendour as he used his timing, footwork and improvisational skills to the maximum effect.

He swept Richard Stemp for four to raise his fifty and, next ball, struck the first of two sixes, another sweep that only just cleared Matt Wood on the boundary. His second six, from James Middlebrook's off-spin, went tantalisingly close to Matthew Hoggard at long-on.

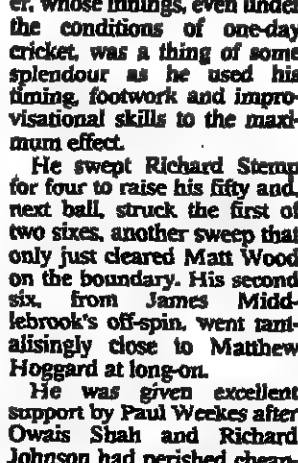
136 was given excellent support by Paul Weekes after Owais Shah and Richard Johnson had perished cheaply after the break. Together they added 110 from 84 balls before Langer was leg-before trying to work Paul Hinchinson away on the leg side in the last over. He had faced 79 balls and hit eight fours and two sixes.

It was his third fifty in the competition but he would have been well aware that the 37 not out that he made against Nottinghamshire and his 60 at Guildford last week both ended in defeats. It was a happier ending this time as Yorkshire collapsed in some style.

In the first over, Michael Vaughan sparred at a ball from Bloomfield and Langer took the catch at slip. In his next over, Bloomfield slipped one through the dangerous Darren Lehmann while Ball, the left-arm seamer, ripped out the next three, with Langer taking another catch to remove Anthony McGrath.

The only real resistance came from Bradley Parkin who crashed a quick 33 and so dominated the sixth-wicket partnership that Richard Blakey only got off the mark when he pushed the single that raised the fifty stand. The run was greeted with ironic good humour by the crowd and by Blakey, who acknowledged the applause as though he had made a century.

Keith Dutch picked on the carcass of the innings to collect a competition best of four for 22 but the last word, however, belonged to Langer who picked up the final wicket of Hoggard to settle the match with 3.5 overs to spare.



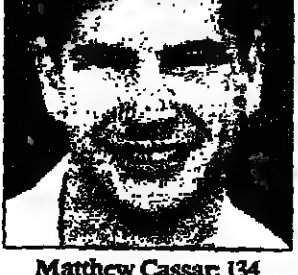
Weekes support

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Matthew Cassar: 134

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Axa League

Gloucestershire v Surrey
CHELTENHAM (Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire (4pts) beat Surrey by 22 runs

Gloucestershire
G I Macmillan c J N Batty b Benjamin 13
R I Dawson b Bell 28
M W Maynard c J N Batty b Bell 18
M C Russell c B C Hollis 10
M G N Wadsworth c B C Hollis 29
G J Bailey 39
B A J Hollis 56
M J Church c Bell b B C Hollis 4
T H Hancock c Knott b A J Hollis 10
M C J Bell not out 15
J Lewis c Knott b B C Hollis 2
M J Church not out 2
Extras (b 4, lb 13, w 10, nb 0) 21
Total (35 wickets, 40 overs) 267
C A Walsh did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36, 2-78, 3-129, 4-150, 5-204, 6-228, 7-240, 8-247.
BOWLING: Benjamin 8-40-1, B C Hollis 8-0-71-2, A J Hollis 8-0-45-2, Bell 8-0-56-2, G J Bailey 8-0-32-1

SURREY

J Ward c Russell b Lewis 5
J D Ratcliffe c Lewis 80
N Shephard c Bell b Hancock 1
B C Hollis c Bell b Hancock 0
J A Knott c Walsh 96
A J Hollis c Knott b B C Hollis 19
M J Church c Bell b B C Hollis 4
M A V Bell c Dawson 0
J E Benjamin c Russell b Dawson 0
Extras (b 3, w 2, nb 0) 13
Total (28 overs) 228
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-24, 3-26, 4-26, 5-163, 6-231, 7-231, 8-236, 9-237

Hampshire v Nottinghamshire

PORTSMOUTH (Hampshire won toss): Nottinghamshire (4pts) beat Hampshire by 30 runs

Nottinghamshire
G E Watton b J McLean 2
J E Gallian c Archer b Hartley 31
P J Strang c Udal b Stephenson 37
G F Archer c Udal b Stephenson 37
M P Downman c Archer b Stephenson 22
C M Tolley c Hartley b Stephenson 17
P J Strang not out 17
P A Strong not out 28
Extras (b 13, w 8) 21
Total (35 wickets, 40 overs) 167
J C M Wood, K P Evans and R T Bates did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-16, 3-78, 4-103, 5-108, 6-122
BOWLING: Connor 6-1-21-1, McLean 6-1-24-1, Morris 5-0-10-0, Hartley 6-0-35-1, Udal 6-0-37-1, Stephenson 5-1-28-2

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

L Soudant c Evans b Tolley 13
J P Stephenson c Archer b Bates 58
N A M McClean c Bates b Tolley 0
G W White c Gallian b Tolley 0
R A Smith b Tolley 1
A D Mascarenhas c Johnson b Bates 27
P J Strang c Bates b Evans 11
A C Morris not out 6
C A Connor c Franks 10
Extras (b 4, w 2, nb 4) 10
Total (25 wickets, 40 overs) 137

Derbyshire v Leicestershire

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings 245
(J M Dean 79)

Second Innings
D L Maddy c D P M Jayasuriya 29
J J Russell c Muralitharan 15
D J Stevens b M Muralitharan 23
B F Smith c Arnold b De Silva 75
A Habib b Muralitharan 23
P A Nixon not out 29
J M Dean not out 18
Extras (b 2, lb 17, w 4, nb 24) 47
Total (6 wickets, 30 overs) 394
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-83, 2-88, 3-94, 4-148, 5-203
BOWLING: Muralitharan 15-3-83-0, Perera 14-4-35-0, Hathurusinghe 8-3-14-0, Muralitharan 28-0-71-2, Jayasuriya 6-1-42-0, Arnold 3-0-11-0, De Silva 7-0-1-0

SRI LANKA: First Innings

S T Jayasuriya c Nixon b Dean 38
P A de Silva c Nixon b Dean 33
D P M Jayasuriya c Nixon b Williamson 48
P A de Silva c Nixon b Dean 1
A Ranatunga c Maddy b Benjamin 110
H P Tillekeratne b B C Hollis 120
C I Pathirana b B C Hollis 29
P W Jayasuriya c Williamson 29
G P Wickramasinghe c Nixon b Benjamin 26
S A Perera c Williamson b Crowe 38
M Muralitharan not out 36
Extras (b 5, lb 19, w 1, nb 12) 37
Total (10 wickets, 60 overs) 608
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-83, 3-89, 4-220, 5-287, 6-384, 7-420, 8-477, 9-501, 10-518
BOWLING: Dean 28-0-110-4, Mills 1-0-14-0, Williamson 25-0-110-3, Crowe 33-4-128-1, Benjamin 22-0-84-2, Maddy 10-0-47-0
Umpires: N T Piers and J F Steele

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Fundamental issue in Smith case still to be tackled

The "eloquence of advocacy" had counted for much in the "harsh but fair" decision of Fina, the world governing body of swimming, to suspend Michael Fibiens from the sport for a year, and not two, said the lawyer representing the British swimmer, who tested positive for Benzoylecgonine, a metabolite of cocaine, in March.

If Melanie Williams, one of three lawyers in Lausanne last week to defend clients on drugs-related matters, could claim such a success, then so, in more than equal measure, could Peter Lennon, the advocate for Michelle Smith in her defence against charges of manipulating a test sample.

While the cases of Fibiens and four swimmers from China, whose two-year suspensions for taking a diuretic were confirmed on Friday, were dealt with by a doping panel of three lawyers without apparent fuss at the small apartment block that Fina shares with the International Chess Federation in a suburb of Lausanne, Lennon ensured that the places in his client's case were moved rather more slowly and in the comfort of an air-conditioned, five-star hotel.

Endgame is no more than a fortnight away, according to sources close to the case against Smith, whose urine specimen contained levels of alcohol so high as to indicate that the swimmer

Craig Lord reports that diversionary tactics in Lausanne appear to be deflecting attention from the matters at hand

would have died had she ingested it. The implication is that the alcohol, said to be whiskey, was there to spoil the validity of the specimen, provided to out-of-competition testers in Ireland on January 10.

Given the exhaustive legal avenues down which Lennon led the 4½-hour hearing at the Lausanne Palace Hotel on Friday, Fina also may have played an astute game in providing a comfort zone for Smith in which there is no room to

doubt the neutrality of the doping panel or question fairness. "Salon 3 at the Palace Hotel was hot and replete with baskets of fresh fruit and buckets of chilled drinks, while a slide projector and video lent a professional air to proceedings and a sign 30 yards down the corridor kept the media away.

There could certainly be no talk of discrimination of the kind that lawyers for the Chinese complained of, nor of the kind that

David Sparkes, chief executive of the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA), will hear of today.

When Fibiens, 28, was temporarily suspended in March pending his hearing, the ASA informed him that he must not train with his London club, in accordance with ASA rules. Sparkes will be called today to urge the ASA to review its position and rule. "Michael has the right to train during his suspension, otherwise he has no hope of returning to swimming

and his punishment would be more like a life ban," a source said. Meanwhile, indications about why the doping panel delayed a decision on Smith have begun to emerge. It is suggested that Lennon may have called into question the integrity of one of the officials involved in the case against Smith, albeit over an incident that took place 15 years ago, when a number of national and international officials allegedly waived qualification rules to allow an Irish athlete entry to a world championship.

If that is pursued, more lawyers will be called for and the controversy of how Smith came to be entered in the 400 metres freestyle

at the Olympic Games after entries had closed and how in 1994 she came to be entered in the world championship 400 metres medley with a time 12 seconds faster than her best doubtless will be revived.

Nor will such deviation answer the fundamental question — how did the whiskey get in the jar? As endgame draws closer, the lawyers, numbering nine in the Lausanne cases, are the only certain winners and all parties might, in the long term, come to understand that the quality of mercy among the membership of world swimming may be less strained in the absence of advocacy, where truth comes in just the one shade.

FOOTBALL

Hamann joins Newcastle with more to follow

By Richard Hobson

DIETMAR HAMANN, one of the few Germany players to emerge from the World Cup with a reputation enhanced, will complete a £5 million transfer to Newcastle United this week. Freddy Shepherd, reinstated as chairman at St James' Park last week, has concluded the deal with Bayern Munich and Hamann, a right-sided midfielder player or defender, has only to pass a medical after agreeing personal terms on a five-year deal.

Hamann, 24, broke into the international side last season after a series of robust performances for Bayern. He is one of the younger players around whom Bert Vogts, the national coach, intends to rebuild the Germany team before the European championships in 2000. Hamann has won 11 caps, but Ottmar Hitzfeld, the Bayern coach, said: "If he wants to go, he can. We have plenty of replacements."

His arrival cushions the impact of losing David Baty to a six-match suspension at

the start of the season. While inevitably casting further doubt over the future of Rob Lee, the signing shows that Newcastle are prepared for any number of changes to avoid a repeat of last season's abject campaign, which ended with the toothless performance against Arsenal in the FA Cup Final. They are also believed to be interested in Roberto Solano, the Boca Juniors and Peru wing back, who would cost in the region of £3.5 million.

The signing of Hamann will take their spending over the summer to nearly £10 million with Stéphane Guivarch, of Auxerre, Carl Serrant, of Oldham Athletic, and Laurent Charvet, of Cannes, among the arrivals. That figure will be breached if Peterborough United agree to sell Matthew Etherington, the young left winger, for up to £4 million.

Etherington, 16, helped Peterborough to reach the semi-finals of the FA Youth Cup sponsored by The Times last

season after a first-team debut aged just 15. The fee — a £1.5 million down payment with the remainder appearance-based — could break the record for a YTS player of 2.3 million paid by West Ham United to Rochdale for Stephen Bywater, the goalkeeper.

John Collins is expected to hold talks with Everton tomorrow after AS Monaco accepted a bid of £2.5 million for the Scotland international. Both Collins and Oliver Dacourt, another midfielder player, who will cost £3.8 million from Strasbourg, could sign in time for the tour of Belgium and Holland that begins on Thursday.

Having been sent back to France by Manchester United after scans on his broken leg, Marc-Vivien Foe, of Lens and Cameroon, could find his way into the FA Cup Premier-ship after all. Foe is believed to be a target for David Jones, the Southampton manager. However, he is unlikely to be able to start training until the end of September.

Paul Gascoigne will make his first appearance since being omitted from the England World Cup squad for Middlesbrough against Stockport County at Edgeley Park tonight. He has recovered from a thigh injury, while Gary Pallister is also due to play after rejoining his former club from Manchester United.

Oslo could be the low-key setting for Roy Keane's comeback after missing ten months because of cruciate ligament damage. Keane wants to play some part in tonight's game against Valencia, the first of Manchester United's pre-season tour in Norway.

Arsenal have Arsenal knowledge of a reported £20 million bid for Dennis Bergkamp from Real Madrid. The Spanish side are now managed by Guus Hiddink, who took Holland to the semi-finals of the World Cup earlier this month. Bergkamp, along with Emmanuel Petit, Patrick Vieira and Marc Overmars, has been excluded from Arsenal's ten-day training camp in Germany.

Zeman's allegations meet angry response

ZDENEK ZEMAN, the AS Roma coach, was criticised yesterday by his Serie A rivals after claiming that there is a drug problem in Italian football. The Czech made a series of accusations in the *Corriere dello Sport* newspaper and called for football to face up to the drugs issue.

"Football should retreat from the pharmacies and the financial world if it wants to become a sport and a game once again, which it no longer is," Zeman was quoted as saying.

His comments unleashed a furious reaction among Serie A coaches, with Eugenio, the coach of Bari, demanding that he either name the culprits or else face possible legal action for apparent defamation of all the coaches in the top division.

Ironically, Thomas Doll, the former Bari player, who is

now at SV Hamburg, tested positive for the steroid, benzobromarone, on March 18.

Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach, dismissed Zeman's claims, saying: "The world of football is clean and there is no possibility of resorting to doping."

The England women put up a spirited performance against Sweden yesterday in Hope Powell's first match as national coach, having the best chances in the first half of their friendly at Dagenham only to lose to the former European champions, and World Cup bronze-medal winners by an 84th-minute goal by Malin Moström.

"Naturally, I'm disappointed with the result, but we totally dominated the first half and our general all-round performance was excellent. We're looking forward to the next game," Powell said.

Bennison hits perfect bullseye

By a Special Correspondent

PHILIP BENNISON, of the Old Epsomians Rifle Club, made history at Bisley when he won the Queen's Prize, the most prestigious target rifle award in the world, with every shot in the bullseye over the two final stages of the contest.

He finished on Saturday with the highest possible score of 300 points, one more than the record set last year by Antony Ringer, the world target rifle champion. It was the first time in the 137-year history of the National Rifle Association that anybody has achieved that level of accuracy. Nineteen of his shots at 900 and 1,000 yards were in the central 14.8in of the bullseye.

Bennison, a chartered surveyor from Tooting, was three points clear of the runner-up, Squadron Leader David Calvert, who was the best of seven competitors scoring the next best score of 297. Calvert took priority because he had 44 shots in the V-bull, 21 of them in the 14.8in ring.

In third place, Chief Technician Brian Jones, one of nine RAF men to reach the final, had 41 V-bulls to count, putting him slightly ahead of Andrew Powell, of Australia, who was fourth with 297.39. The other scores of 297 came from John Pugsley, of Pesca, a former winner, Ross George, of New Zealand, Brian Cambray, a retired Devon policeman, and Bill Richards, of the Old Marlburians.

The top-scoring woman of the four to reach the final was Gaby O'Leary, of the Welsh Rifle Association, who finished in nineteenth place with 296.41. Scoring was so close that only five points separated the leading 23 competitors.

The Queen's Hundred featured several cadets. Philip Carter, of Wellington College, finished 31st with 294.32 and Matthew Wilson, of Gresham's School, was 51st with 293.26, both of them in front of well-known internationals.

Results, page 39



Bennison, the Queen's Prize-winner, is carried by his team-mates in the NRA victor's chair

EQUESTRIANISM

Beckett pips Tait in model performance

By Jenny MacArthur

PETA BECKETT, a former model, relegated Blyth Tait, the Olympic three-day event champion, and Ready Teddy to second place at the Pedigree Chum Cornbury Park horse trials in Oxfordshire yesterday after an inspired performance on Watermark III, her 11-year-old gelding.

Both riders produced copy-book performances over the cross-country course to end the day on the same score of 40, but Beckett was awarded first place after finishing in a fractionally faster time than Tait. Although Watermark is only a half-thoroughbred, he is one of the fastest cross-country horses on the circuit. "I can gallop him into a fence and know he's not going to turn me over," Beckett said.

This fearless style was demonstrated at Badminton in May when Beckett, 32, who has two young children, finished in eleventh place after the cross-country. Although she had to withdraw before the showjumping, when Watermark went lame, the selectors were sufficiently impressed to include her on the longest for the world championship in Rome in October. "It was a wonderful surprise," Beckett said. She has now given up her modelling career (7 hated it — I felt just like a machine) and has taken up lecturing in equine science at Warwickshire college.

Tait, who was delighted with Ready Teddy's performance, was compensated when he won advanced section K on Sam Barr's Welton Envy, a horse formerly rid-

den by Charlotte Bathe. Well in the lead after the dressage, Tait was able to take the 11-year-old comfortably round the cross-country and still finish six points ahead of the runner-up, Nicola Browne on Arctic Imp. "The course is ideal for this time of year," he said. "There are some testing fences but also lots of encouraging ones."

Terry Boon, the former Young Riders European champion, won advanced sec-



Tait compensated

tion J on the one-day specialist, Into Over Drive, after holding off a strong challenge from Christopher Bartle on Oscar, the 1998 Badminton winner.

Boon has decided to keep Into Over Drive at two-star level. "He upgraded from novice to advance in one year after winning his first seven events," Boon said, "but the Puchestown three-day event this year proved a step too far."

HOCKEY

Late goal thwarts England's new faces

By Sydney Friskin

A GOAL from a short corner by Craig Fulton eight minutes before the end enabled South Africa to defeat England 3-2 and clinch the five-match series 2-1 at Pretoria yesterday.

The overall result was a morale-booster for South Africa, who failed narrowly to qualify for the recent World Cup in Holland. England, however, had dropped eight World Cup players from this tour to give younger players experience.

In a match of ebb and flow, South Africa were ahead almost from the start. Cullen, who plays for Chelmsford in the English league, gave them the lead in the fifth minute, but Hoskin equalised 14 minutes later from Garcia's free hit. The South Africa lead was restored in the 25th minute by Anderson, who capitalised on a defensive lapse by England, whose efforts to regain ground were thwarted by Myburgh in goal.

England persevered and levelled the score in the 61st minute, when Wallis hit the target from the top of the circle. English joy, however, was short-lived, with South Africa forging ahead again in the next minute, Fulton scoring on the rebound after Luckes had saved.

Barry Dancer, the England coach, said: "We can't expect to win when we give away soft goals in deep defence. Our midfield was at its best, but our finishing did not provide the result we were hoping for."

SOUTH AFRICA: B Myburgh, W Bond, C Jackson, B Michel, G Carter, M Cullen, J King, G Nicol, C Fulton, K Dries, B Key. Substitutes used: D Witte, M Anderson, J Smith.

ENGLAND: D Luckes, B Dancer, J Wallis, W Waugh, G Foran, D Woods, H Garcia, J Wallis, D Hall, R Crossley, M Fern. Substitutes used: J Lewis, B Barnes, M Johnson, H Hoskin, B Field. Umpires: M Botes (South Africa) and J Pryn (England).

TENNIS

Kuerten ends wait for a win

By Our Sports Staff

GUSTAVO KUERTEN, 21, broke a victory drought stretching back to the French Open 14 months ago as he beat Karol Kucera 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 to win the Mercedes Cup in Stuttgart.

Kucera, of Slovakia, who denied Marcelo Rios, of Chile, the world No 1 ranking with an upset in the semi-final, won the first four games against

the No 13 seed from Brazil and took the first set.

Kuerten began his comeback with a break for 4-2 in the second set as Kucera's returning accuracy began to suffer. He lost his service in the fifth game of the third set, but took advantage of an error to break back and stay in the match at

4-4. Kuerten reached two match points in the tenth game and needed only one to win.

Switzerland clinched a place in their first Fed Cup final when Martina Hingis, the world No 1, recovered from a set and 4-1 down to beat Amelie Mauresmo, of France, on Sunday. Hingis fought back to win 6-7, 6-4, 6-2 and give the Swiss an unbeatable 3-0 lead over France, the holders. In the final, which is to be held in Basel in September, Switzerland are likely to play the United States, who were leading Spain 2-1 in Madrid.

Another sell-out crowd had arrived at the specially constructed clay court in the car park of the Tourbillon soccer stadium on a hot afternoon expecting to see the Swiss teenager breeze past Mauresmo, ranked No 34 in the world. Despite playing her first competitive tennis since losing to Jana Novotna in the semi-final at Wimbledon, Hingis had shown few signs of rust during her straight-sets demolition of Julie Halard-Decugis in the opening match on Saturday, but the 17-year-old laboured against Mauresmo and was on court for 2hr 19min.

TEAMtalk

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Race administrators fail to comprehend damage done to world's premier cycling event

Tour trips through drugs haze

FROM JEREMY WHITTE
IN GRENOBLE

DESPITE its credibility being shattered by the continuing doping scandal centred on the world's top professional team, it now seems certain that the 1998 Tour de France will inexorably grind its way north to Paris over the next seven days.

Yet although, bound as it is by serious financial commitments, the Tour organisation is determined to finish the race this year, the bubble surrounding Europe's most popular annual sporting event has burst.

If the tradition and heroism of past Tours have become locked in time, then so has the Tour's own administration, which seems content to follow the shabby and cowardly example of cycling's governing body, the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI).

At the side of the road yesterday, as the race fulfilled its obligation to start in Val d'Aoste and finish in Grenoble, gleeful French teenagers stood at the roadside holding banners proclaiming "Le Tour - C'est fini".

Despite the seizure last week by police of steroids and masking agents from their team hotel, the Dutch TVM team have somehow avoided expulsion from the race. Unlike Festina before them and despite continuing pressure for their removal, TVM race on. That in itself demonstrated the insularity and arrogance of a sport that finds it hard to acknowledge the values of the outside world and has for many years considered itself to be beyond the rule of normal ethical laws.

Now, with the bubble burst by the most institutionalised doping scandal in modern sports, the Tour organisation, the French media and the athletes themselves seem paralysed by doubt and fear, unable to see the damage being done to an event that celebrates its centenary in 2003.

The rider revolt on Friday, which was thinly disguised as a *cri-de-cœur* against negative press coverage, was in fact the worst possible example of player-power, a clever tactical move aimed at reducing the possibility of further scandal and reproach. By bluffing the panicking race organisation into believing that the Tour would have to be abandoned, the professional elite managed to dissuade the UCI from introducing the drastic "health checks" that Hein Verbruggen, the UCI president, had promised to inflict on the Tour field this year only three days earlier, in Paris.

Now, after a meeting between representatives from each of the Tour teams and the UCI on Saturday morning, a truce has been called and "round table" discussions on



O'Grady grimaces as he holds off the challenge of Giuseppe Calacaterra, of Italy, to win the fourteenth stage yesterday. Photograph: Laurent Rebours

increased doping controls have been pencilled in for the end of the year.

Yet even as Alex Zülle, Festina's star rider, was detailing his own use of doping products in the Swiss media, the disgraced Festina team resumed racing in northern Spain in the GP Villafranca. Although the race was won by Frank Vandenbroucke, of Belgium, Gianluca Bortolami, Festina's Italian rider, took second place.

Zülle's comments about his

own use of erythropoietin (EPO) illustrated the escalating race among cycling's highly-paid but highly-penalised top riders to achieve spectacular results.

"EPO is part of the business," Zülle said. "I took it because I had to, in order to stay competitive. It's the same as when everybody is breaking the speed limit on the motorway, but I'm the one who got caught."

"I'll never take drugs again," he said. "Now I hope

that the sports administrators will make the most of the opportunity to clean up the sport that our confessions gives them."

Although Armin Meier, Zülle's team-mate, another to admit the medically supervised use of EPO, forecast an "avalanche" of suspensions by the UCI, the private meeting on Saturday between stars such as Marco Pantani, the Tour of Italy champion, Laurent Jalabert, the French champion, and Bjarne Riis, a

past Tour winner, and Daniel Beal, the UCI vice-president, is likely to lead to a doping "amnesty" in professional cycling while a new testing structure is established.

Even this conciliatory route allows the athletes themselves to have a say in what constitutes doping, but Juan Antonio Samaranch, the International Olympic Committee president, is among the many influential figures now pressuring the UCI to clean up cycling.

"I want to see a drastic reduction in the number of banned products in the sports world," Samaranch said. "Substances should be banned if they affect the athletes' health or artificially boost their performance."

The stage yesterday to Grenoble, crossing the heights of the Vercors plateau, was won by Stuart O'Grady, of the GAN team, the winner in May of the Prudential Tour of Britain. The Australian, who wore the race leader's yellow jersey during the Tour's opening week, sprinted home at the head of a six-man group that broke clear after 56 kilometres.

O'Grady might be happy with his lot, but with the TVM manager and team doctor due to appear before magistrates in Reims today and Bernard Hinault, the former French champion, still insisting that the TVM cache of syringes and steroids may not have been for the riders' use at all, the next few days promise to reveal more bad news for cycling.

KING OF THE MOUNTAINS: 1. R. Massé (GER, Telekom) 18pts; 2. J. Sorensen (DEN, Mapei) 16pts; 3. T. Sørensen (DEN, Mapei) 15pts; 4. S. O'Grady (AUS, GAN) 15pts; 5. R. McEwen (AUS, RAB) 14pts.

POINTS: 1. E. Zabel (GER, Telekom) 28pts; 2. J. Sorensen (DEN, Mapei) 18pts; 3. T. Sørensen (DEN, Mapei) 16pts; 4. S. O'Grady (AUS, GAN) 15pts; 5. R. McEwen (AUS, RAB) 14pts.

TEAMS: 1. Colloby 19hrs 20min 21sec; 2. Borel 19hrs 20min 21sec; 3. Casino 19hrs 20min 21sec; 4. Poul 19hrs 20min 21sec; 5. Telekom 19hrs 20min 21sec.

TODAY: Fifteenth stage (Grenoble to Les Deux-Alpes, 119km).

TOUR DE FRANCE DETAILS

13TH STAGE (Frontignan to Peyre de Cap, 196km): 1. D. Nardello (ITA, Mapei) 4hrs 32min 45sec; 2. A. Tadi (ITA, Mapei); 3. A. Tadi (ITA, Mapei); 4. S. O'Grady (AUS, GAN) 4hrs 33min 55sec; 5. F. Sorensen (DEN, Mapei) 4hrs 34min 05sec; 6. F. Sorensen (DEN, Mapei) 4hrs 34min 05sec; 7. S. O'Grady (AUS, GAN) 4hrs 34min 05sec; 8. F. Sorensen (DEN, Mapei) 4hrs 34min 05sec; 9. F. Sorensen (DEN, Mapei) 4hrs 34min 05sec; 10. M. Den Bakker (NED, Rabobank) all same time; 11. E. Zabel (GER, Telekom) 4hrs 34min 05sec; 12. S. Bartsch (GER, Telekom) 4hrs 34min 05sec; 13. S. O'Grady (AUS, GAN) 4hrs 34min 05sec; 14. A. Turchio (ITA, Mapei); 15. M. Backstedt (SWE, GAN); 16. A. Sponzietti (ITA, Mapei); 17. G. Hinault (FRA, Mapei); 18. F. Sorensen (DEN, Mapei); 19. F. Sorensen (DEN, Mapei); 20. G. Verheyen (BEL, Lotto); 21. G. Verheyen (BEL, Lotto); 22. G. Verheyen (BEL, Lotto); 23. G. Verheyen (BEL, Lotto); 24. G. Verheyen (BEL, Lotto); 25. G. Verheyen (BEL, Lotto); 26. G. Verheyen (BEL, Lotto); 27. G. 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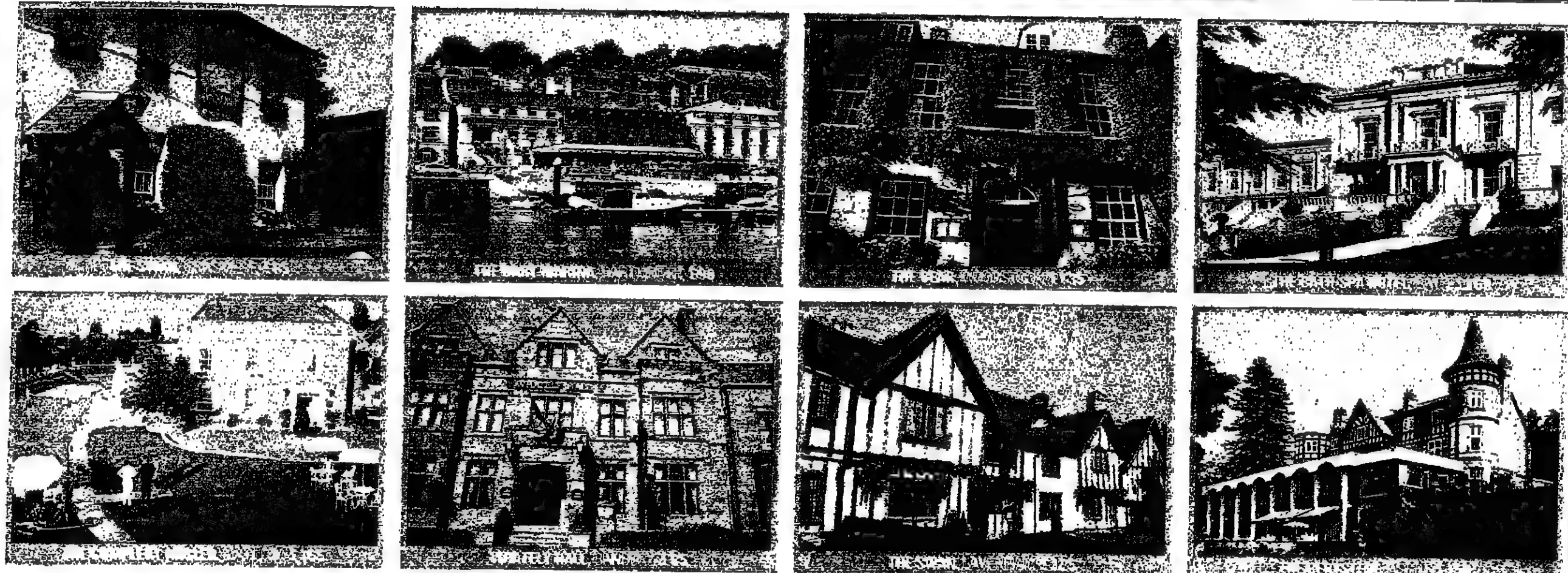
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CHANGING TIMES

RUGBY UNION: WAY OPEN FOR NEW CONTINENTAL CLUB COMPETITION

French withdrawal sounds European Cup death-knell

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

A COLLECTIVE *non* to participation by the nine professional French clubs leaves the European Cup dead in the water. With the leading English clubs adamant that they will not take part in the competition under its present European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC) administration, the way is now open for an alternative European tournament.

Brive and Toulouse, former winners of the competition, joined Stade Français, Bourgoin, Bègles-Bordeaux, Pau, Narbonne, Castres and Perpignan in a declaration yesterday that they are withdrawing from the European Cup, which has been rendered utterly valueless. Sponsors and television will not touch a tournament left to participants from Scotland and Ireland; Italian clubs are likely to side with their French cousins.

René Bouscatel, the Toulouse president, said that he wanted an alternative European competition organised by the French federation with the commercial aspects left to the clubs, who have been in discussions with their rebel English counterparts. The initial plans are for the 14 Allied Dunbar

Premiership clubs to take part, along with Cardiff and Swansea, and up to 16 French teams.

There were hints last week that Sir John Hall, the Newcastle owner, could withdraw his funding from last season's champions if the owners did not get their way on an alternative European competition. Sir John has held discussions with French clubs in recent months.

Under the Mayfair Agreement with the Rugby Football Union (RFU), cross-border competitions need to be sanctioned by the relevant unions. Not that the English clubs are likely to be making a hasty march to Twickenham, now that they see themselves in a position of enhanced power.

Only 24 hours before the French withdrawal, Roger Pickering, the European Cup tournament director, urged that it was still not too late for the English clubs to reconsider participating, as they would stand to gain £5 million. With greater control, clubs believe that they stand to gain far more. Provisional fixtures for the European Cup, won last season by Bath,

had been issued. Now, six weeks before the start of the English and French seasons, precise dates and matches remain up in the air — again in contravention of the Mayfair Agreement. The idea of a Celtic Cup, mooted before, has limited appeal to Scottish and Irish clubs, who see themselves being excluded from valuable and necessary European exposure.

Having rebuffed the clubs in their attempt to recruit Cardiff and Swansea into the Premiership, Brian Baister, eight days into his chairmanship of the RFU management board, now appreciates the sort of problems that consumed Cliff Brittle, his predecessor.

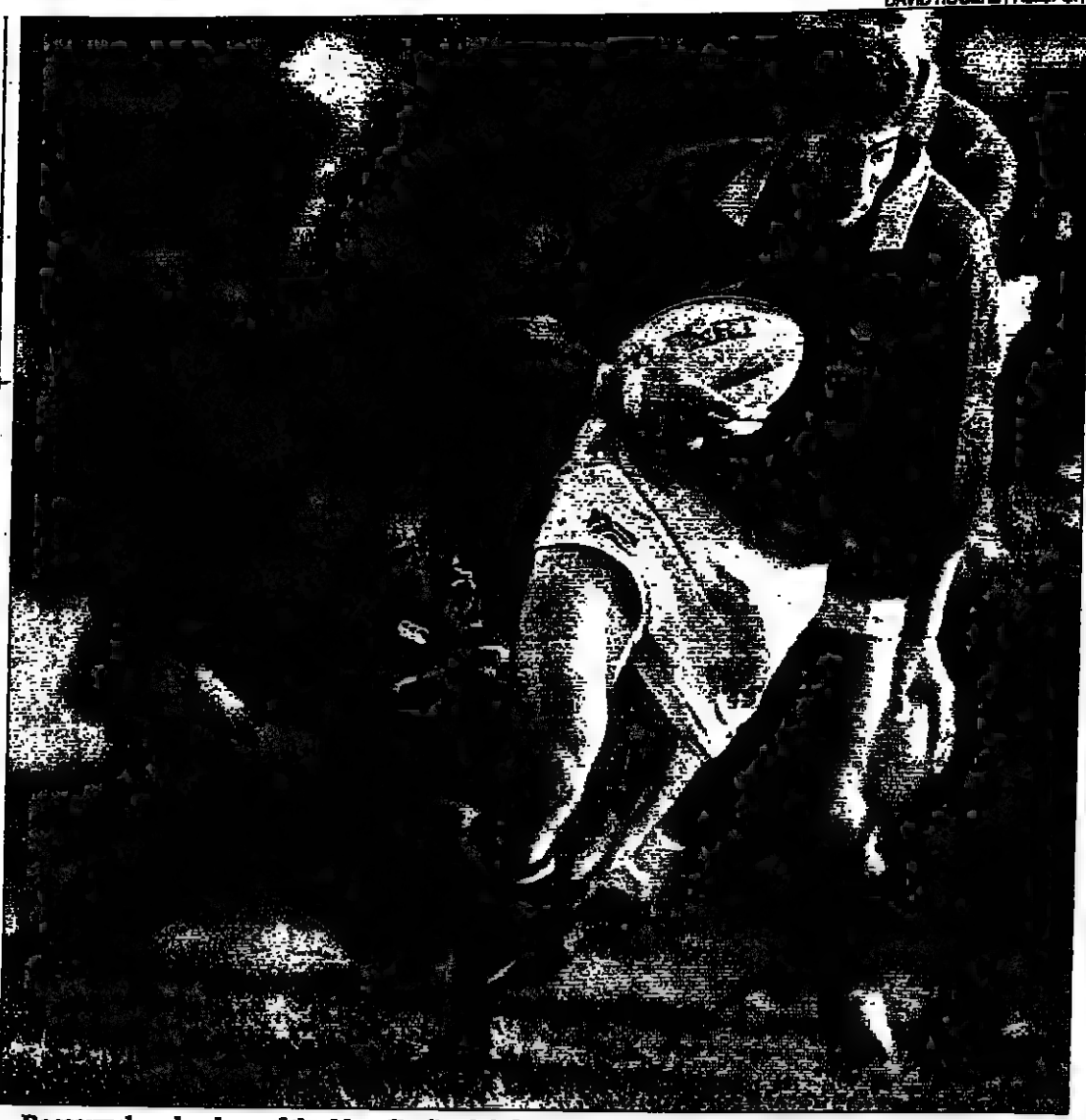
Reacting to the news from France, Baister said yesterday: "This reminds me of our recent problems. The French clubs and the French federation are working from different agendas, with the clubs not appreciating that the federation has a wider responsibility."

Clubs in France need to be sanctioned by the federation to play outside the auspices of the ERC.

The nine clubs are opposed to plans by the federation for 24 teams in two groups in the new domestic championship. Instead, they want 16 or, at most, 20 clubs to take part.

On one hand, the clubs in England are extolling the virtues of greater control over their destiny, while the reality impressed upon the game last week by the near demise of Bristol tells a very different story. In Wales, Neath have disappeared already. The professional era, far from the saviour of Coventry and Moseley, has seen those two former great clubs nearly driven to the wall.

Orrill have reverted to win bonuses for players and Blackheath have returned to part-time status — a theme taken up by Jonathan Davies, the former Wales captain, yesterday. "At the moment, rugby can't support the bulk of the players who are drawing big pay packets," he said. "It is appalling to see clubs like Bristol and Neath going under and others are sure to follow unless they take action. The only answer is semi-professionalism and the quicker the game moves in that direction the better."



Rossouw breaks clear of the New Zealand defence to score the game's only try at Athletic Park

South Africa line holds firm to deny All Blacks

New Zealand 3
South Africa 13

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THERE are still 15 months to go until the 1999 World Cup, but with every match that they play South Africa come closer to a successful defence of their title. After beating New Zealand on Saturday, the fifth meeting of these inveterate rivals, they have completed the hardest part of a first success in the tri-nations series. More significantly, they have a young squad that is capable of improving.

It is impossible to underestimate the boost to morale that successive wins in eight days over Australia and the All Blacks will have brought to Nick Mallett's team. Under Mallett's coaching, they have won 11 consecutive internationals; they now have a chance to recover before meeting New Zealand in Durban (on August 15) and Australia in Johannesburg (August 22).

Not only that. Their hard-earned win in Wellington, on one of Athletic Park's balmy days, was their first overseas success against the All Blacks since the "barbed-wire" tour of 1981 and was founded firmly on an outstanding defence. That was the area on which Kitch Christie's World Cup winners placed so much emphasis and Mallett has taken similar precautions.

Yet he will recognise that fortune has also been on his side. In successive matches, opposing goalkeepers — Matt Burke of Australia, and, on Saturday, Carlos Spencer — have failed utterly to punish South African misdemeanours. Spencer missed five penalty attempts before being replaced by Andrew Mehrtens, who retains the place at fly half against Australia next Saturday with John Hart, the All Blacks coach, acknowledging that he should not have been omitted in the first place.

Hart has been pondering

what to do with his midfield ever since Frank Bunce retired earlier this year: if Spencer's attacking light is snuffed out, he has no cutting edge. So it was that New Zealand could dominate utterly the first half with South Africa, yet still turn round trailing 3-0 with Justin Marshall, Hart's first-choice scrum half, off the field with a bruised hip that may yet keep him out of this Saturday's game on his home ground at Christchurch.

There is an indecision in All Black ranks that contrasted strangely with South Africa's considered approach: the Springboks are not the most expansive side in the world — yet — but the pieces that could make them so are falling into place.

They allowed Taine Randell to break clear from the base of the scrum once, but otherwise there was scarcely a sniff of the tryline for the All Blacks. Only a rejuvenated Jonah Lomu posed genuine problems for South Africa, who moved forward rather than sideways with ball in hand and nailed the match down with eight minutes to go: Henry Honiball kicked his team into the corner and then played pivot to the move that sent Pieter Rossouw over for the game's only try.

SCORERS: New Zealand: Penalty goal: Heinrichs (20/21). South Africa: Try: Rossouw (72). Conversion: Montgomery. Penalty goals: Montgomery 2 (26, 88).

SCORING SEQUENCE: (New Zealand first; 0-3 (full-time), 8-3, 8-3, 8-3.)
NEW ZEALAND: C M Cullen (Wellington); J W Wilson (Chgo); M A Meyerhoff (Chgo); S J McLeod (Wellington); W K Little (North Harbour); J T Smith (North Harbour); C J Spencer (Auckland); A P F Mearns (Canterbury); 49, J W Marshall (Canterbury); rep: O F J Tonu'u (Auckland); 30; G W Dowd (Auckland); A D Oliver (Chgo); O M Brown (Auckland); D Jones (North Harbour); R M Brooke (Auckland); M R Jones (Auckland); rep: I Make, Chgo, 80; J A Kromfield (Chgo); T C Randell (Chgo, captain).

SOUTH AFRICA: P C Montgomery (Western Province); G S Tardif (Glenelg); A H Smith (Northern Transvaal); rep: P F Smith (Northern Transvaal); 40; P G Muller (Natal); P W G Rossouw (Western Province); rep: C M Williams (Western Province); 16-18; H W Honiball (Natal); J H van der Westhuizen (Northern Transvaal); R S Kempson (Natal); rep: A H le Roux (Natal); 51; J Dierkes (Glenelg); A C Garvey (Western Province); 34; A D Allan (Western Province); A G Verter (Free State); G H Tschirner (Natal, captain).
Referee: E F Morrison (England)

SPEEDWAY

Britain's best wary of Scandinavians

TWO Scandinavian riders served a warning to the best of British under-21 riders at the weekend, just a week before the world junior championship final (Tony Hoare writes). Great Britain has four riders in the final, which is to be staged in Pila in Poland this Sunday, but Nicki Pedersen, of Denmark, and Andreas Jonsson, of Sweden, have stolen the limelight.

Pedersen, 21, scored 15 points from six rides in Newcastle's 32-58 defeat against Peterborough on Saturday and was the only rider to make an impact against the Premier League leaders. Jonsson was unbeaten for the Sweden Under-21 team on Friday at the Orebrow track. The Rospiigarna rider — the No 1 target for clubs in this country — has so far repelled all moves from English sides hoping to sign him.

However, his efforts in Ore-

bro could not prevent the English juniors winning by six points and clinching the two-match series. Sweden won 15-46 in Mariestad on Thursday, but the 51-45 win by England the next night made sure of a victory. The top England performer in Orebrow was Lee Richardson, of Reading, who makes his world under-21 final debut this weekend.

Richardson, who will be joined by his compatriots Leigh Latham, Andre Compton and Scott Nicholls, was beaten only twice in six rides. Nicholls missed the series because of commitments to Ipswich. He scored five points for them against Coventry on Saturday as they lost 46-44. Nottingham local councilors are campaigning to save the future of the Long Eaton stadium, which went into receivership before the start of the season.

30p

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Play acted out to make compulsive viewing

We seem to have spent an awful lot of this summer switching on the television, saying "oh God" and then switching off again. Certainly, that has been the easiest way of watching England play cricket. Test cricket, uniquely in international sport, requires not only periods of concentrated watching but also intermittent moments of catching up, of keeping in touch.

And, throughout the summer, catching up has taken priority over actual watching. You need badly to see how England are doing, but you can't really bear to watch them doing it for sustained periods.

What's been the worst? The buffet bowling? Or the still more predictable batting collapses? Answer: neither. The worst bit has been the brief — very brief — periods in which England looked like a proper and purposeful cricket team. Because you knew the disaster would follow as the sparks fly upward.

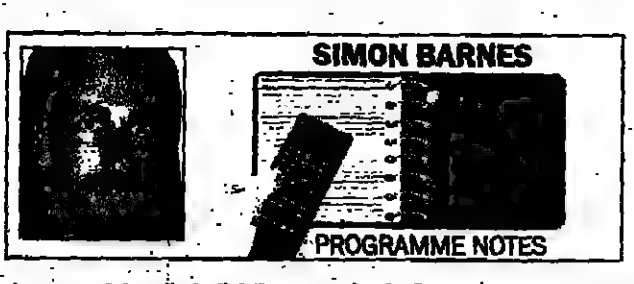
So we needed this Test match. We needed a match contested between equals, in which the outcome was uncertain, in which the balance shifted and shifted again in a troubling and volatile fashion, in which the best players on both sides played at or close to their best.

Above all, we needed — cricket needed — a match of the sustained and increasing tensions, tantalizing and tantalizing again over a period of days, a commodity that only Test cricket can deliver.

Just about every sport in the calendar has upstaged cricket this summer. The World Cup distracted attention away from cricket, which was probably to cricket's benefit, if anything. Then, golf, of all things, brought us a weekend of youth and hope.

England's cricket has been marked by incompetent selection and a curious team dynamic. Success seemed to be a matter of the individual, the retention of your place. The only time that the team shared things was when it was time for the next disaster.

Responsibility. The Gloucestershire under-15s, I know, spend a colossal amount of time practising their fielding. This does not make them better fielders. It makes them responsible cricketers. Each player is responsible for and to the team.



It is a fundamental difference in attitude between aspiring young cricketers and established club cricketers. This kind of cohesion, of shared purpose, is something that England have constantly strived for and constantly failed to find at Test level.

It is precisely this matter that is South Africa's greatest strength. When they bat, you never quite seem to get through them. When they field, they give a very satisfactory impression of being prepared to die for each other.

They have Jonty Rhodes, one of the great fielders of all time, a man made for television, constantly in motion, doing something absolutely remarkable every 20 minutes and acting as a batsman for his side. South Africa are like a football team, with everyone prepared to do a vast amount of running off the ball for everyone else.

Until yesterday, that is, the fourth day of a Test match of grinding tensions. Miraculously, a day of transformation. A South Africa scorecard is normally remarkable for the amount that each individual contributes: the second innings contained six single-figure scores — seven if you count Extras.

Cricket people have spent a long time waiting for the new Boham, but there are other virtues, less flashy ones than Boham personified. For a start, there are the virtues of corporate strength and responsibility. Then there are the profound and ultimately unflashy strengths of such absolutely genuine team men as Angus Fraser and Michael Atherton.

'Without commitment to the franchises, expansion is in danger of becoming a dirty word again'

Game in desperate search of a profile

When rugby league talks in terms of expansion, the immediate reaction is to blanch and discard the notion as errant nonsense. Remember Southend (formerly Kent Invicta), Bridgend (né Cardiff City) and Mansfield Marksmen in the ambitious Eighties and, long before those starry-eyed ventures, Coventry, Newcastle, Ebbw Vale, Merthyr Tydfil, Morecambe and many more?

The game has had countless starts in Wales, all at supposedly a ripe time (now, for instance, because Welsh rugby union is imploding), with only fleeting success. In Gateshead, Cardiff and Swansea at the weekend, the missionary drum was beaten loud and proud as the JJB Super League wound up its three-week "on the road" series in those places bidding for franchises next year.

CHRISTOPHER IRVINE



Crowds have been unspectacular, but encouraging enough for the experiment to be repeated. No one could ever fault the sport for its missionary zeal — Sheffield Eagles and London Broncos are testaments to that enthusiasm — but Sheffield's failure to increase crowds after their unlikely triumph in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup in May and a halving of attendances to under 3,000 at London demonstrate just how difficult it is to sustain momentum.

This time, rugby league cannot afford to be turned back by the tide of history, now that its future is secure with a new £56.6 million television contract up to 2003 with The News Corporation, parent company of The Times. Next season, will see one or more franchise clubs. None of Gateshead, Cardiff and Swansea combine ideally the elements of money, stadium and playing infrastructure to ensure success. Well-versed in the art of bookmaking, Maurice Lindsay, the managing director of



Castleford supporters in all manner of undress demonstrate their loyalties in Cardiff as the Super League takes to the road. Photograph: Huw Evans

Super League Europe, the leading clubs' umbrella organisation, appreciates that it is a gamble. For now, the odds favour slightly Gateshead's entry next year. If Cardiff, Swansea, or both, are overlooked until 2000, rugby league in Wales is unlikely to survive a second rejection in two years. Lindsay is exasperated with the time that it is taking to make the decision, now due on August 15, as the Rugby Football League's accountants examine the fine details and an independent assessment panel prepares to scrutinise each applicant.

"It has been a laborious and, at times, ham-fisted procedure," Lindsay said. "I can't draw up the fixture list for next season, but this game must spread its wings. We can't stagnate around the M62 corridor, and in Gateshead, Cardiff and Swansea, to a greater or lesser degree, we have the ingredients to avoid another Paris."

When Lindsay talks of avoiding "another Paris", he refers to the demise of the club in which he staked his reputation and where the Super League era was launched spectacularly in March 1996. Paris fizzled out after two seasons, partly because the team lost its French identity. Australian players made up the side last year. Because there are insufficient British players of quality to furnish 12, let alone 14 or 15 clubs, crowds in the North East and Wales will generally be supporting Australian "best on the bone" — to borrow the Super League's catchphrase.

The Luddite tendency, quite reasonably, argue the case for retrenchment and consolidating areas of strength. It is because crowds are disappointing in the first and second divisions that the smaller clubs are actively discussing a return to a winter season. Whatever the merits of better weather, it is not been the catalyst that the sport had hoped.

The encouraging news is that in universities, the new national conference, in leagues in Scotland, Wales and Ireland, the Armed Forces and the women's game, participation is soaring. Gateshead and Cardiff both have flourishing academy teams. Hemel Hempstead lead the traditional clubs in the Alliance first division and have applied to join the second division proper next season.

Ray French, the BBC Television commentator, said: "What you're seeing in universities, for instance, is league wiping rugby union off the map, such is its popularity. The junior game has never been so strong at a national level, underpinned by quality administration which the professional game has lacked for years. But without a national profile, the game could wither away and it's why Gateshead and a Welsh side must come in and be seen to succeed."

SPORTS LETTERS

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

e-mail, including postal address, to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

Reasons for drug-taking

From Dr Julian Rowe

Sir, "You don't win the Tour de France by eating sandwiches and drinking mineral water," according to Eddie Merckx, who won the Tour five times. Surely your columnist, John Bryant, (Bryant's Eye, July 23), has pinpointed exactly the dilemma facing cycling after the Festina affair and many other sports when he writes: "... if they are practically all taking it (EPO), what is the point? Who gains the advantage? Would it make any difference to their relative positions if they all stopped?"

pharmaceutical dilemma pretty much vanishes. Yours etc. JULIAN ROWE, "Cranston", Lake View Road, Dormans Park, East Grinstead RH19 2LS. john.rowe@virgin.net

Open golf

From Mr Alexander Cullen

Sir, Lynne Truss is concerned by what she perceives as the "old-bore masonic" image of the game of golf and blames Peter Alliss for its downfall (article, July 20). But why pick on poor Peter Alliss, who is only trying to be to golf what the late, lamented Brian Johnston was to Test cricket? As one observer noted recently: "He remains a mellifluous beacon amongst a rabble of bland commentators, particularly in view of his inclination to whimsy during his post-lunch sessions." The odd avuncular aside to chums offstage hardly constitutes a headlong spiral into cosy club-bound elitism and if references to "Big Eric" found Ms Truss blushing, then I am only sorry that, unlike the rest of us, she failed to share the joke.

Survival of two cricket magazines

From Mr E. W. Swanton

Sir, Your "Extra Cover" feature of July 22, having quoted me as President of *The Cricketer* saying I believe there is a market for two magazines, reveals the heavy loss sustained in the past six months of 1997 by *Wisden Cricket Monthly* (WCM). *The Cricketer*, on the other hand, shows a regular annual profit.

There is no doubt that sporting magazines have been hit by the publication by the quality newspapers of sports supplements. Also sales markedly reflect for better or worse the current success or otherwise of the England XI. In this respect, *The Cricketer*, which covers the game at all levels from schools to Test series, has an advantage over WCM, which restricts itself almost entirely to first-class and Test cricket.

Instant video evidence

From Mr Marc Brown

Sir, John Brennan (Sports Letters, July 20) and others suggest that, after a match, video recordings could be reviewed and additional red and yellow cards handed out. If video technology is used to help referees, it must be used during the match as incidents happen and not afterwards. It is no consolation to a team that is knocked out of the World Cup when, after the final whistle, the player they had sent off is "pardoned" or one of their victorious opponents is given a post-match card for the dive that resulted in the deciding penalty being awarded. It is also impractical to alter the result of the game.

as the FA maintain their objections to mixed gender roaches and coaches avoid overweight players, there would be little for the defenders to get a grip on if this style of kit were adopted. Yours faithfully, DAVID N. LEW, 43 Ossulton Way, N2 0JY.

Re-educated

From Mr D. L. Hazelden

Sir, Schoolboy physics left me cold, golf always seemed a waste of time, but your report today (July 23) — "the ball soared, hovered and landed softly as a lightly poached egg on a breakfast plate" — awakened my interest in both.

Half right

From Mr David Fraser

Sir, I heartily endorse and support the decision by England not to bat in the Test match at Trent Bridge, but, surely, they should not have bowled either. Yours faithfully, DAVID G. FRASER, 16 Worthing Road, East Preston, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN16 1AZ.

This week in THE TIMES



■ **Tomorrow** The 1948 Olympians gather in London this week to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the last Games in Britain. David Powell hears Stan Cox, above, talk of good times past.

■ **Wednesday** First reports from Glorious Goodwood, a highlight of the horse racing summer, and a look forward to the Sussex Stakes.

■ **Thursday** Celtic and Rangers hope to make progress in Europe — but how have they fared against Irish opposition?

■ **Saturday** Is Cowes Week losing its appeal? Ed Gorman charts the increasing attraction of Cork for British sailors.

Can we now drop such specious nonsense such as a split Olympics — one for drug enthusiasts and another for "clean" athletes — aired recently? If we can regard sport as more about winning (and dare one say, participating) rather than only about beating what are often fairly notional records, then the ethical and

Yours faithfully, ALEXANDER CULLEN, Shearwater Farm, Criccieth, Porthlwyth PH7 3RD. s.cullen@lincsone.net

From Mr Archie Rickwood Sir, I read with horror Lynne Truss's article. Peter Alliss has been my Peter O'Sullivan of golf commentary. He and his co-commentators have given it to us as they see it, calling on vast experience of the game. One pointed comment that Alliss made was in relation to crowd control: "All over the world all you need to control golf crowds in their thousands is a piece of string."

whose nose Alliss got. He gives the impression of being so omniscient that people are almost afraid to criticise him. Yours in support. KEVIN NEE, Upmeads B'low, Newport Road, Stafford ST16 1DH.

No shirt-pulling

From Mr David Lew

Sir, A solution to the plague of shirt-pulling that afflicted the World Cup was provided by a female Chelsea fan at the 1997 Cup Final who arrived topless apart from a body-painted replica Chelsea shirt. So long

Yours faithfully, MARC BROWN, 14 The Green, Edlesborough, Buckinghamshire LU6 2JF.

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SAILING

Germany's team effort produces best results

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE Germany red team of *Here, Sequana* and *Topas*, which started the Rolex Commodore's Cup as many people's favourites to wrest the title from England, the holders, have taken a firm grip on the series with an impressive performance in the long off-shore Channel Race over the weekend.

The Germans went into the race on Friday after slipping one place to second overall, behind the Holland red team, after a protest, but the three crews put that behind them and produced wins in two of the three classes for *Here* and *Sequana* and a fifth place for the little boat, *Topas*.

Norbert Plambeck, the owner and skipper of *Here*, the J/Club 45, praised what he called the sustained team effort put in by the Germans. "We all sailed really well and concentrated all the time," he

in generally light airs, featuring strong spring tides that caused compressions in running order and which made things tough for the heavier boats in the smaller classes. One notable victim was *Cetawayo* in the England green team, which eventually retired after being unable to round a mark in windward conditions against a foul tide.

The race was supposed to be a "flexi-course" lasting 28 hours, but, in the event, it was shortened to around 24 hours, by which time the majority of the fleet had completed a long sweep out towards St Alban Head and then back eastwards towards the Owers and Littlehampton before finishing at Warner.

While *Cetawayo* gave up the ghost, two other boats in her class, *Deiler 29*, of the Holland red team, skippered by Jan Scholten, and the Belgium red boat, *General Tapaca*, skippered by Philippe Pilate, stuck to their task, eventually completing the course early yesterday, almost 48 hours after the start.

Tracy Edwards has announced that she has commissioned Nigel Irens to design a big catamaran for an all-female entry in the Race, the unlimited non-stop round-the-world race in 2000. Edwards said that she has seed funding in place and expects to begin building a new boat in January. However, she is still looking for a commercial sponsor capable of putting up a multimillion-pound budget.

The project follows the high-profile attempt by Edwards and an all-female crew to break the record for the fastest circumnavigation of the globe in the catamaran *Royal & Sun Alliance*, which ended when their boat was dismantled in the Southern Ocean earlier this year.

Results 39

said. "It was a little worrying near the end when the wind dropped to 1.5 knots, but it eventually picked up and we managed to stay ahead of *Victric 5*, of the England red team."

Thomas Jungbluth, the skipper of *Sequana*, the Germany middle boat, the First 40.7, has still to be beaten in this series and is proving to be a formidable opponent in both light and fresh conditions. His and his colleagues' success and the strong performance of the two Holland teams, which now lie second and third overall, underlines that those countries, where the IMS handicap system is still thriving, have come to Coves with the best-prepared boats.

The race, which was also sailed by the Royal Ocean Racing Club fleet, proved a very tricky and exhausting test

Sheikh driven on by sense of history

Simon Barnes believes that money is not the main motivation behind Godolphin's success

Swain did it again, Godolphin did it again, Sheikh Mohammed did it again and Frankie Dettori did it again. It doesn't seem to have got boring for any of them. On Saturday, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes was won for the third time in four years by Godolphin, the Sheikh's racing machine, and the last time by Swain.

This was the first time that a horse had won successive victories in the race since Dahlia achieved the double in 1973 and 1974. No one has done the hat-trick, but I bet Sheikh Mohammed fancies it.

Being a sheikh means you have to delegate and Sheikh Mohammed, as usual, delegated the post-race celebrations to Frankie, who did his saddle-leap and his smile and his horse-kiss. Sheikh Mohammed delegated the extra smiling to Saeed bin Suroor, the Godolphin trainer, who is a man of easy charm.

Sheikh Mohammed himself looked mildly pleased, perhaps faintly bored, which I suppose is something that sheikhs have to do. I don't know that it fooled too many people: he was absolutely fizzing with delight underneath, fizzing with that very fierce delight that governs his style — of behaviour, of racing.

He parried questions about the hat-trick with all sorts of wait-and-see stuff, as if he were a British trainer long-used to fobbing off press inquiries. You almost expected him to say: "We'll have to wait and see what the owner thinks."

Swain is already six. He is not electrifying: he is wonderfully solid. You can rely on him to give everything, to give nothing away. If he were a bowler, he would be Angus Fraser: sometimes overlooked in favour of more flashy Dominic Cork types, but always utterly genuine.

The talk at Ascot was all of a virtually untied three-year-old, who was supposed to come in and bowl out the best in the world with his first crack at them, but good old reliable Swain turned it into a men-against-boys sort of day. Another day, another five-wicket haul.

The result was a sheikh cracking with carefully-hidden pleasure, absolutely exploding with joy underneath the beard and the half-smile. To express his real inner delight, he would have needed to saddle-leap



Dettori, representing the popular appeal element of the Godolphin operation, kisses Swain after their big-race triumph at Ascot

as high as the top of the stands. Instead, he stood there politely answering questions, and cracked. There is still a feeling in and around racing that the Arabs in general are interlopers and that Sheikh Mohammed is the chief intruder. "Here come the camel drivers," muttered a voice behind me as the Sheikh's party came to claim their own. Not, I imagine, a description that will bother him: the Prophet himself was a camel-driver. Besides, Sheikh Mohammed does not see himself as an interloper at all. He is indeed a man coming to claim his own. People involved in horse racing — all people involved in horses — are deeply aware of the past. This is a very ancient business: the links between the two species of mammal go back into the mists of

time and, with them, the urge to try one horse and one human against another.

Sheikh Mohammed is more aware of the horse's deep time than most. The first recorded horse race in this country was in AD 210. It was held under the Romans, who brought over fast horses to race. What kind of horses? Arabs, what else? The entire thoroughbred dynasty can be traced back to just three founding stallions. All Arabs, naturally. The Byerley Turk, the Darley Arabian and... The Godolphin Arabian. Sheikh Mohammed did not pull this name out of the hat.

It means something very powerful, very deep.

He is conscious of history; he is conscious of the possibilities of making history. The combination of his resources, his hunger, his innovative mind, his organisational abilities and his ruthlessness give him a matchless chance of making his mark, of setting, perhaps, a mark that will never be beaten. Perhaps uniquely in horse racing history, he can plan beyond the next race, the next classic hope. He can plan for history. He can and, he does. Thus the excellent Swain has been kept away from the pasha's life

of the stallion. He has stayed in racing because the making of history comes before the making of money.

History. That was why he insisted on running the swift and darling filly, Cape Verdi, in the Derby, a race contested primarily by colts. He knew that no filly had won the Derby since 1916. The Oaks looked like a certainty for her, but Sheikh Mohammed preferred a tilt at history.

The passing and repassing of great horses, the joinings and Sunderings of the great bloodlines across the years — from The Godolphin Arabian, in fact — fill his heart and mind. Every horse person is part of the warp and woof of history: few are as conscious of that as Sheikh Mohammed. Hat-trick?

6 If Swain were a bowler, he would surely be Angus Fraser, always utterly genuine?

ROWING: MEN'S TEAM RETAIN TITLE AT HOME INTERNATIONAL REGATTA

Scotland exceed expectations

By MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

SCOTTISH hopes were high before the Home International regatta at Strathclyde Park, Glasgow, but even Iain Somerville, their young new president, was delighted at capturing five first places out of eight boat classes in the men's event, which led to Scotland retaining the trophy. Wins for the national championship crews, the coxless four, from Clyde, and the double scull of Alastair Warnock and Martin Holmes were expected. The bonuses came when Kevin Plank, beaten at the national championships the previous week, won the lightweight sculls and a new pair of Gordon Gillespie and Martin Harris, both from the London RC Henley-win-

ning eight, came home ahead of Mark Partridge and Roger Everington, the Wales national champions. The issue was clinched in the last race, when the Scotland quad, with Warnock, Holmes, Plank and Mark Dodds, the under-23 champion, substituting for a sick Peter Haining, won the final race. England finished second overall, although Mike Webb was their only winner, in the heavyweight sculls.

The women's event also went to the last race on Saturday. England had, at that stage, achieved four firsts, including the vital eights and a win for Globe, the national champions, in the coxless

crew from Commercial RC, Dublin, and with England in third, it was they who took the match, by one point.

Scotland and England shared the junior competitions, Scotland winning with the girls and England the boys. One of England's four first places was achieved by the Windsor Boys' quad, stroked by Mark Wilkinson, a double national champion this year and last and a 1998 Henley winner. One of his 1998 Henley crew-mates, John Gelling, of Claires Court, achieved the only two first places of the whole competition for Wales, in the junior sculls and double sculls.

Results, page 39

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PUBLIC NOTICE
FULMAR OIL FIELD
Shell U.K. have submitted a Decommissioning Programme for the Fulmar SALM Buoys to the Department of Trade and Industry for approval in accordance with the provisions of the Petroleum Act (1987). The buoy formed part of the original crude oil collecting system. It was removed from service in 1994, and has been replaced by a new buoy. The decommissioning programme is available at the following address:
<http://www.shell.co.uk/fulmar/fulmar.htm>
Alternatively a hard copy of the programme can be inspected by appointment at the following locations during office hours:
Fulmar SALM Project Office
Shell U.K. Exploration and Production
Hullborough House
Hullborough Road
Dun, Aberdeen AB21 0DP
Contact John Sutton on 01224 778230
Shell U.K. Exploration and Production
Shell West House
Barnard
London WC2R 0DX
Contact Cynthia Harris on 0171 257 4689
Nimble Shell
Preston 40
M4026 Tisbury
Wiltshire
Contact Frank Moncrieff on (+47) 51 88 34 15
Representations regarding the Decommissioning Programme should be submitted in writing to John Sutton, Fulmar SALM Project Office, Hullborough House, Barnard Road, Dun, Aberdeen AB21 0DP by August 7 1998.

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CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The South London Hospital for Women and Children
Reference: 102672
The Commission proposes to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at the Charity Commission, 4th Floor, 15, Bedford Square, London WC1E 6BT or can be obtained by sending a request to the Commission, 4th Floor, 15, Bedford Square, London WC1E 6BT. The Commission will consider the Scheme and make a decision on whether to make a Scheme for the charity. The Commission will consider the Scheme and make a decision on whether to make a Scheme for the charity.

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IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice in the Bristol District Registry dated the 9th day of July 1998 confirming the appointment of the liquidator of the above named company by the court is hereby published. The liquidator of the above named company is hereby appointed. The liquidator of the above named company is hereby appointed. The liquidator of the above named company is hereby appointed.

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Lizanne Rose discovers that whitewater rafting is as tough and as tricky as staying on a bucking bronco



Lizanne Rose, kitted out in lifejacket and mandatory helmet, prepares to tackle the man-made whitewater course at Nottingham, right, where newcomers to the sport quickly learn that it is not for those who panic under water

Riding the rough water

You'll be thinking how you've experienced rougher water in a row-boat on the Serpentine in Hyde Park. Then, suddenly, your 14ft inflatable will hit a huge swell, pitch, roll and submerge you in spraying foam. Only as your raft lifts high into the air and slaps back down on the river, giving you a faceful of water, will you get an idea that this sport is actually as tricky as staying on a bucking bronco.

In our instructor's last two

years of taking beginners out in a whitewater raft, she has had a total of three capsize — two of which were down to us! Although the idea of whitewater rafting is that you ride the rapids in your sophisticated rubber dinghy, our amateur crew spent more time in the water than in the boat.

Even if you stay on board you will still get very wet. I had assumed that the closest you could get to whitewater in Britain would be a log flume ride at Thorpe Park and

that to experience it for real you would have to travel to Nepal or Colorado. However, to my surprise, whitewater does exist in Britain too, and we boast a successful national team. Whitewater gets its name from the surface appearance of the water created by fast flowing rapids and foam. Rafting emerged in America in the 1970s, since when the technology and accessibility of the sport have grown enormously. Because Britain has few rivers wide enough to float

a 14ft raft, it has taken the British a little longer to discover the sport. Scotland and Wales both have natural whitewater sites, ranging from a mild grade 1 run to a near impossible grade 5. I tried my hand at rafting at the National Watersports Centre in Nottingham, which has a man-made course graded as a 2-run fed with water from the River Trent. The 800-metre slalom course is enclosed and a good starting place for beginners. Safety

ropes can be thrown easily from the banks, and there is no chance of you disappearing miles downstream.

Nevertheless, the huge slabs of concrete jutting menacingly from the water as you are buffeted by four-foot waves and pushed under by the current is not for the faint-hearted. Even though you are wearing a lifejacket and the mandatory helmet, confidence in the water is really necessary. If you are not happy about getting splashed or panic if your head goes under, this is probably not a good sport to try.

It helps to have some experience of either sailing, canoeing or rowing, but you will not be at a disadvantage if you do not, because rafting is a team sport.

We were given an hour's instruction before tackling the rapids. This included a practice session on calm water. Our instructor showed us how to hold the paddle so that it entered the water vertically to provide maximum leverage and power.

If you are seated on the right of the raft, your left hand will grasp the crossed top of the handle. Your right hand is positioned low down near the blade. You sit precariously on the edge of the raft with your feet wedged as tightly as possible under the seat in front. Because you are not tied to the raft, there is no chance of you being trapped underneath the boat should it capsize.

Balancing the raft as a team is essential, since waves and undercurrents attacking the raft from both sides will push it in all directions. Our instructor steered the boat from the back, using her paddle as a rudder, navigating and shouting commands while we tried to keep the boat stable.

If someone falls overboard, it is up to the crew to pull them

out, and without losing any paddles in the process. Climbing on to wet rubber from several feet lower in a fast-flowing river is quite a challenge. As soon as you get close to the raft again, the other crew members will hand you on board by your lifejacket. Because people tend to be swept downstream faster than the rafts, quick reactions are imperative if you do not want to see your fellow paddler float helplessly away on his or her own.

A rope runs along the edge of the raft for you to grab if you fall overboard, but by the time you come to the surface — you



could be under water for at least five seconds — the raft will quite possibly be out of reach. Even if you manage to swim to the side of the river with a Herculean effort, unless there is someone on the bank to pull you out, there are no grips to hang on to. You simply have to brave it out, keeping calm and keeping your feet up and paddle in front of you to ward off the rocks that are unfortunately all the way along the course.

When our crew got into our stride we weren't bad at all, but when we lost it, it was a disaster. Our only consolation was that the water was warm and the showers afterwards were hot!

TO TRY white-water rafting at the National Watersports Centre (Current Trends), Nottingham or for details of other centres in Wales, Scotland and the North East, contact Skyline Promotions on 0171-359 6080.

COST: A two-hour white-water rafting session costs between £100 and £200 per group of eight people, depending on location. If you wish to try rafting and raise money for a charity at the same time, the eight team members need to collect £600 between them. (Charity events can be organised through Skyline Promotions.)

INSURANCE: You will have to sign an indemnity form absolving the centre of responsibility. Individual sport insurance is not really required as the chance of injury is slight. **FITNESS:** A reasonable level of fitness is necessary, especially for lugging the raft back to the start. You need to be confident in and around water but it is not compulsory that you can swim. **AGE:** You must be more than 14 to take part. There is no maximum age limit. **HEIGHT:** There is no minimum or maximum height requirement. **CLOTHING:** You should bring a swimming costume or shorts, T-shirt, trainers, plus a complete change of clothing. Wet suits can be hired for £5 each. **RAFTING SEASON:** Rafting is an all-year-round sport, but autumn and spring are the best as the centre is at its quietest and winter can be a bit icy!

FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

The companies listed have registered their golf days for the 1998 Calendar. The top four individual entries on the day will form the company team to compete for the regional final.

DATE	COMPANY	LOCATION	TIME
24 JUL	A.N.S. PLC	WOKING	40
24 JUL	ACA CABLE	ROYAL PORTHAWAY	54
24 JUL	DISTRIBUTORS	FOREST PARK	51
24 JUL	DERBY LANDSCAPES & GARDEN DESIGN	WYNDHURST LAKE	54
24 JUL	I.C. RUMBOLD PLUMBING & HEATING LTD	WALTON HEATH	72
24 JUL	K.P.M.G.	CHART HILLS	24
24 JUL	LINK CCTV SYSTEMS LIMITED	ABOYNE	108
24 JUL	PETROLINE	WELLSYSTEMS LTD	40
24 JUL	W.C.C. LIMITED	ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE	72
24 JUL	SECURICOR OMEGA EXPRESS	KINGSWOOD	12
24 JUL	INTERFIELD TRAINING & ENTERPRISE COUNCIL	BERKHAMSTED	80
24 JUL	WHITBREAD PLC	ALFORD	96
24 JUL	DOWELL	UFFORD PARK	24
24 JUL	NORFOLKLINE LIMITED	GOLF HOTEL	24
24 JUL	PRESBYTERIAN	THE LONDON GOLF CLUB	110
24 JUL	SHELL UK EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION	BRECHIN	24
24 JUL	CRUISE & YOUNG	ASHBRIDGE	72
24 JUL	WEST BROMWICH BUILDING SOCIETY	HAWKSTONE	100
24 JUL	ASTON PHOENIX	PARK HOTEL	24
24 JUL	IT	POWELL	24
24 JUL	MORTISSE MOTOR	MENTWORTH GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	70
24 JUL	HOLDINGS LTD	BREADSALL PRIORITY	96
24 JUL	TURNER POWERTRAIN SYSTEMS LIMITED	GREAT BARR	80
24 JUL	BAWELL LEISURE	ST GEORGES HILL	96
24 JUL	STASCO	THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	16
24 JUL	FLAN LTD	CHERRY LODGE	16
24 JUL	GERALD LIMITED	THE OXFORDSHIRE	54
24 JUL	ROWEY INSURANCE GROUP	ST AUGUSTINE	16
24 JUL	TEAM 121	FOREST OF ARDEN	32
24 JUL	BANK OF IRELAND	LISBURN	40
24 JUL	MORTISSE CENTRE	SHERWOOD FOREST	16
24 JUL	BATES WESTON	RIRR	80
24 JUL	LEONISCHIE IRELAND LIMITED	NEW ZEALAND	40
24 JUL	LOMBARD	FOXHILLS	40
24 JUL	VNU BUSINESS PUBLICATIONS	WHITBY	36
24 JUL	BRITISH STEEL	NOTTINGHAM HALL HOTEL	40
24 JUL	FINANCIAL OPTIONS GROUP	ROTHLEY PARK	30
24 JUL	VOCLAR VIVADENT LTD	SOUTH HERTS	24
24 JUL	KNIGHT INSURANCE	FOREST PINES	16
24 JUL	PREMIER PROFILES LTD	RECHES	36
24 JUL	RIMS GROUP	MURRAYSHALL	54
24 JUL	SEAFOURTH TRAVEL	HATFIELD LONDON	36
24 JUL	SHAW STAFF	COUNTRY CLUB	40
24 JUL	RECRUITMENT LTD		

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Martin Hoffman is one of the finest match-pointed pairs players in the game. His excellent *Defence in Depth*, first published in 1985, has just been reissued. Here is an example from the book:

Dealer South	Love all	Pairs
<p> ♠ K 5 ♥ A 10 ♦ K Q 7 5 ♣ K Q 2 </p>	<p> ♠ A 10 7 6 ♥ A 2 ♦ A J 5 ♣ A J 6 4 </p>	

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: five of hearts.

Declarer wins West's trump lead in hand and plays the two of diamonds to West's four and dummy's king. As East knows that his partner would have played the three of diamonds from a holding of 10-4-3, he ducks this trick, and declarer continues with dummy's queen of diamonds. East wins his ace as both South and West follow suit. How should East continue?

If declarer manages to run the diamonds there will surely be no way to beat the game. Passive defence is not good enough. Say East returns a trump. Declarer will win in dummy, ruff a diamond high, draw the remaining trump and play a club. Sooner or later he will reach dummy with a club honour and run the diamonds.

Thus East must switch to clubs at this trick, to attack

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

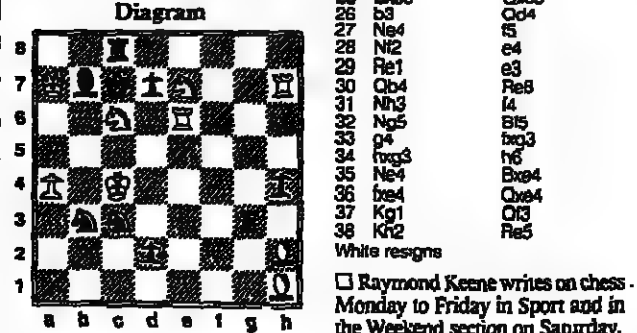
With the Smith & Williamson British championship starting today in Torquay, I give a game by one of the co-winners last year, who was ultimately eliminated after a play-off which left Michael Adams and Matthew Sadler sharing the title.

White: Chris Ward
Black: John Emms
British championship
Hove 1997

1. e4 e5
2. Nf3 Nc6
3. Bc4 Bc5
4. d4 exd4
5. Nxd4 Nf6
6. Nc3 Bb6
7. Bb5 d5
8. Bxc6+ bxc6
9. e5 Nd7
10. f4 c5
11. Bc4 Qc7
12. Rf3 Rf8
13. Bb5 Nb6
14. a4 Nc4
15. Bxc4 Qc4
16. Bb5 Rf7
17. Rf3 c5
18. Nd5 Nc6
19. Bxc6 Bxc6
20. Nc3 Bb6
21. Nc2 Qc4
22. c3 Bb6
23. Qd2 Kf8
24. Bb5 Bc5
25. Bxc6 Bxc6
26. Rf3 Rf8
27. Bb5 Nb6
28. Rf1 e4
29. Bb5 Bc5
30. Qd2 Qc4
31. Bb5 Nb6
32. Rf3 Rf8
33. Bb5 Bc5
34. Rf3 Rf8
35. Bb5 Nb6
36. Rf1 e4
37. Bb5 Bc5
38. Rf3 Rf8

White resigns.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



WINNING

White to play. This position is from the game Hebden - Crouch, Four Nations League, 1998.

The white rook is loose on c2, while Black is also threatening to capture on c3, gaining an extra pawn. How did White solve his problems?

Solution on page 44

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TORQUE WRENCH

- a. An old twister
- a. A special spanner
- a. A war of words

PHAETON

- a. An ancient lighthouse
- a. A horse-drawn carriage
- a. A ceremonial dagger

BICHEROUX PROCESS

- a. Bulk pastry-making
- a. Canine insemination
- a. Glass production

DRINI

- a. An Albanian river
- a. Religious ruling body
- a. Legal intestacy process

Answers on page 44

FOR THE RECORD

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Fremantle 14-14 (15) vs Adelaide 13-17 (15). Collingwood 9-11 (15) vs Melbourne 22-20 (15). Port Adelaide 13-17 (15) vs Carlton 13-17 (15). Sydney 22-17 (14) vs Brisbane 14-15 (15).

BOWLS

CARDIFF: Fourth international match. Wales 4-0 (Wales names first). England 13-17 (15) vs Wales 4-0 (Wales names first). England 13-17 (15) vs Wales 4-0 (Wales names first).

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

EQUESTRIANISM

FEDEKREE CHUM CONSUMERY PARK: Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

FOOTBALL

INTERCITY CUP: Third round, second leg. FC Bayern Munich 3-2 (S. Schuster 2, M. Dabrowski 2) vs Borussia Dortmund 2-1 (S. Schuster 2, M. Dabrowski 2).

GLIDING

LESZNO, Poland: European Championships. Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

BOXING

NAGOYA, Japan: World Boxing Association. Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

ATHLETICS

Track and field: Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

BASEBALL

WORLD AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS: Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

HOCCY

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

MOTOR RALLYING

WELLINGTON: Rally of New Zealand. Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

LACROSSE

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

JAPANESE CYCLING

MOTOCYCLING: Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

MOTOR RACING

SNETTERTON: Auto Trader Race. Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League: Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

ROWING

HOME INTERNATIONAL REGATTA: Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

TENNIS

WASHINGTON: Legg Mason Classic. Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

SHOOTING

BRISLEY: NRA Imperial Meeting. Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

CYCLING

TRUCK: Men's international. Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

GOLF

MASSACHUSETTS: CVS Charity Classic. Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

CLUB CRICKET

WATFORD LEAGUE: Final day of the 1997-98 season. Essex 386 (A. Habbott 122, D. Robinson 55, M. Bates 52) vs Lancashire 278-8 (D. Jones 134, T. Munton 53).

CLUB CRICKET

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FOOTBALL

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GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

Table with 4 columns: Date, Event, Location, Time. Rows include TODAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY events.

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Katherine Bergen finds a growing band of vets using alternative therapies to ease the suffering of animals, from family cats, dogs and birds, to cows and snakes

We know that pets contribute to our own general good health. Even stroking an animal brings down blood pressure and stress levels. But there are now a variety of options for ensuring a pet's health — including many of the alternative therapies available to human beings.

Homoeopathy, herbal medicine, acupuncture, Bach Flower Remedies, osteopathy and even counselling are just some of the therapies on offer from a growing band of veterinary surgeons dedicated to the alternative approach.

Anthony Pusey (01444 831576) is an osteopath with a practice in West Sussex who has been treating animals for 15 years (no one can treat an animal unless they are the owner, a vet or someone acting under the supervision of or in consultation with a vet).

He treats mainly horses and dogs and says that animal osteopathy differs little from that performed on humans.

"Dogs are referred to me by their vets and mainly we see middle-aged, overweight dogs who have stiffness or neck and back pain," says Mr Pusey. Studies show that on average, dogs need 27 treatments to improve. A half-hour session costs £35 — much the same as people are charged.

For horses, Mr Pusey uses a thermograph to determine the type of injury and the horse is sedated while he treats it. The success rate, he says, is very good.

"Seventy-five per cent of the horses we treat are better after three or four treatments and this number, in the studies so far, have remained so a year

'Treatment using crystals and an electric current has helped prolong the life of a dog with malignant cancer'

later. In 24 per cent of cases performance is actually at a higher level than before," Mr Pusey adds.

Onno Wieringa (0171 937 8215), a qualified vet and practitioner of acupuncture on humans, uses the treatment as a complement to traditional veterinary medicine. He recommends it for treating epilepsy, incontinence, low energy, arthritis and other painful conditions.

One of his most successful cases was a King Charles

spaniel, called Darcy, who has epilepsy. "He was not doing well with conventional treatment which made him very sluggish. He is much more alert now after acupuncture and is slowly improving. Dogs with partial paralysis and neurological problems also do well on this treatment."

A course of four treatments, each lasting 30 minutes, costs £35 for the first and £30 for each subsequent session.

At the Alternative Veterinary Medicine Centre in Stanford-in-the-Vale, Oxfordshire (01367 710324), Christopher Day practises a variety of therapies including aromatherapy, herbalism, homoeopathy, tissue salts and laser treatment.

"Pets get a 30-minute consultation when they first come in," says an assistant. "We treat cats, dogs, horses and cattle mainly but also birds, snakes and tortoises."

The use of lasers, a fast-developing multi-purpose treatment for humans, is used in conjunction with acupuncture. Infra-red lasers are used to hasten the healing of wounds.

Richard Allport, at the Natural Medicine Veterinary Centre in Potters Bar, Hert-



Alternative therapies are the cat's whiskers

Nine lives intact: Burmilla Astabazy Zarzuelas is just one pet that can benefit from less well-known treatments

fordshire (01707 662058), trained as a conventional vet but has practised all types of alternative therapies for the past 12 years. He is the only vet in Britain to be a qualified practitioner of electro-crystal

therapy for animals, which costs £25 plus VAT for a 10 to 20-minute session.

Any animal can be treated with the system which uses quartz crystals sealed inside a plastic tube containing a se-

line solution. An electric current is passed through the tube and placed on the injured part of the animal.

"I use this treatment in conjunction with other therapies such as acupuncture. It is

helpful, though not a cure, in chronic cases such as cancer," says Mr Allport.

He is particularly pleased with the progress of Decca, a German Shepherd with prostate cancer. "This is a very

malignant cancer and he was not given long to live. But months later he is doing very well on a combination of homoeopathy, herbal remedies and vitamins.

Essential oils are also being used to treat animals. Aromatherapy, using oils, shampoos, poultices and lotions, works by promoting healing within the body.

Kristin Kosowan (01672 511959), has treated horses, dogs, cats and even a bantam. She started seven years ago when she was asked to cure a Jack Russell of travel sickness.

"There are levels of safety and precautions must be taken but once the appropriate preparation has been formulated, it is simple to use," she explains. The bulk of Ms Kosowan's clients come to her with "common ailments" such as fleas and ear mites, for which non-prescription treatment is available over the counter.

More serious conditions are referred to her by vets. "I always ask if owners have talked to their vet and what they have said," she says. "I am not allowed to diagnose and prefer to work alongside vets."

She makes no charge for her consultations but sells a range of lotions, creams and shampoos for between £4.50 and £18. Kismet, a cat whose fur had lost its gloss, benefited from treatment with a peppermint tea tree shampoo.

Maybe we humans should give it a try.

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مكتبة الأمل

Squatter acquired rights of leaseholder

Central London Commercial Estates Ltd v Kato Kagaku Ltd and Another
Before Mr Justice Sedley
[Judgment July 15]

By operation of the statutory trust created by section 75(1) of the Land Registration Act 1925, the surrender of a leasehold interest in registered land did not defeat the rights of a squatter who had acquired the right to seek registration of a leasehold title acquired by adverse possession, even where the squatter had yet to utilise the right to seek registration of his leasehold title.

Mr Justice Sedley, sitting as an additional judge of the Chancery Division, decided in a preliminary issue that the first defendants, Kato Kagaku Ltd, had, by December 20, 1996, acquired by reason of their adverse possession of the west courtyard of Bush House, Strand, London, the right to seek registration of the leasehold title in the Central London Commercial Estates Ltd, to remain in possession of the west courtyard until the expiry of the term of the lease on December 25, 2025.

Section 75 of the Land Registration Act 1925 provides:
(1) The Limitation Acts shall apply to the land in the same manner and to the same extent as those Acts apply to land not registered except that where, if the land were not registered, the estate of the person registered as proprietor would be extinguished, such estate shall be deemed to be held by the proprietor for the time being in trust for the person who by virtue of the said Acts, has

acquired title against any proprietor, but without prejudice to the estates and interests of any other person interested in the land whose estate or interest is not extinguished by those Acts.

Mr Romie Tager, QC, and Mr Alexander Gould for the plaintiffs; Mr Christopher Nuge, QC, for Kato Kagaku Ltd and the Secretary of State for the Environment; Mr Terence Ethernott, QC, for Axa Equity and Law Life Assurance Society plc, third party.

MR JUSTICE SEDLEY said that the preliminary issue raised the vexed but hitherto unresolved question of real property law of whether section 75 of the 1925 Act prevented the registered leaseholder from giving the freeholder a right to immediate possession against the erstwhile squatter by surrendering the remainder of his term after more than 12 years adverse possession by a trespasser.

The present case concerned the freehold of the west courtyard of Bush House in Strand, London, which was granted to the plaintiffs, Central London Commercial Estates Ltd, by the south-west wing of Bush House in Strand for 94½ years from June 24, 1934 to St Clement's Property Company.

The leasehold interest passed to the third party, Axa, in 1942 and the present plaintiffs, Central London Commercial Estates Ltd, acquired the freehold title from the London Residuary Body in 1989.

At all material times both the freehold and leasehold estates had been registered, with title absolute and good leasehold title respectively.

The present dispute concerned the west courtyard of Bush House, which had for more than 12 years prior to the date of surrender

[December 20, 1996] been in the continuous adverse possession of the first defendants, Kato, and their predecessor in title, the freehold owners of the north-west wing of Bush House, including part of the west courtyard.

Kato had been operating a paying car park in the west courtyard, part of which had been on land demised to Axa. For the purpose of determining the preliminary issue it was assumed that Kato's land use amounted to adverse possession of the relevant parts of the west courtyard.

On December 20, 1996, Axa by deed surrendered the leasehold to Central. Rather than replace Axa with Central as the registered proprietor of the leasehold interest, which would have enabled Kato to seek registration instead, the Land Registry closed the title to the leasehold.

The law of unregistered conveyancing made a surrender in equivalent circumstances to the foregoing effective to defeat any proprietary right or title in the squatter. See *Fairweather v St Marylebone Property Company Ltd* [1962] 1 QB 488, 535-6 per Lord Radcliffe.

A squatter did not succeed in the title he had disturbed. By sufficiently long adverse possession he obtained a title of his own, but his possession only defeated the rights of those to whom it had been adverse.

Consequently the effect of the Limitation Acts was not to destroy the lease's estate as between himself and the lessor; the lease was still able to surrender to the freeholder on the fee simple in possession represented by the term

of years, with the result that the squatter's defence against the lessor disappeared as the squatter would not have completed adverse possession against him.

In *Spectrum Investment Company v Holmes* [1981] 1 WLR 221 the squatter had obtained registration as proprietor of his leasehold interest before the leaseholder had executed a deed of surrender in favour of the freeholder.

Mr Justice Browne-Wilkinson, contrary to Lord Radcliffe's dictum in *Fairweather* that section 75(2) related not to the usurped leasehold title but to the independent prescriptive title acquired by adverse possession, held that the references in section 75(2) of the 1925 Act to the squatter having acquired title to a registered estate must have included rights acquired under the Limitation Acts in relation to leasehold interests.

Once the 12 years had run, the squatter was entitled to be registered as proprietor of the lease and the former leaseholder could never get into a position in which he was competent to surrender the lease to the freeholder.

The critical difference between the instant case and *Spectrum* was that the possibility of Axa's surrender of the lease.

Section 75(1) created a specific exception to the general rule that limitation should affect registered and unregistered land similarly. Where the leasehold estate in the courtyard was registered, section 17 of the Limitation Act 1980 would be inapplicable.

Mr Justice Sedley said that the Limitation Acts were not to destroy the lease's estate as between himself and the lessor; the lease was still able to surrender to the freeholder on the fee simple in possession represented by the term

as was held of the freeholder and had now been surrendered: see *Fairweather*.

To split the leasehold interest after 12 years of adverse possession into an element related entirely to the freehold and another related solely to the squatter did not seem to marry up with either the purpose or the operation of section 75(1).

In relation to a registered leasehold, however, section 75 lifted the extinguishing effect of the Limitation Act and substituted the effect of the leasehold interest from the moment of extinction of the leasehold title.

The squatter became entitled, without regard to the merits, to be placed in the same relationship with the freeholder as had previously been enjoyed by the leaseholder. That was to all appearances a statutory conveyance of the entire leasehold interest.

If, by the date of the purported surrender, the leasehold interest was impressed by the statutory trust, it must follow that the squatter passed to the freeholder upon the merger of the leasehold with the freehold interest by surrender.

Kato's beneficial interest under section 75(1) was an overriding interest under section 70(1)(b) and (g) and by virtue of section 23(1)(c) and section 69 it now bound Central. By application of *Williams & Glyn's Bank v Boland* [1981] AC 487, 503, section 74 could not intervene.

Solicitors: Michael Conn Goldsobel; Linklaters; Pinsent Curtis, Birmingham; D. J. Freeman.

Editing process cannot be protected dramatic work

Norowzian v Arks Ltd and Others
Before Mr Justice Rattee
[Judgment July 17]

A film of a man dancing, which had been edited by the film-maker to create an illusion that the dancer performed a certain sequence of movements which in reality no human could perform did not constitute a "dramatic work" within the meaning of section 1(1)(a) of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 in which copyright could subsist.

Mr Justice Rattee so held in a second judgment in the Chancery Division when dismissing the claim of the plaintiff, Mr Mehdi Norowzian, that his film *Joy* represented a dramatic work within the meaning of section 1 of the 1988 Act, being a work of dance or mime.

Mr Justice Rattee said in a second judgment in the Chancery Division when dismissing the claim of the plaintiff, Mr Mehdi Norowzian, that his film *Joy* represented a dramatic work within the meaning of section 1 of the 1988 Act, being a work of dance or mime.

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different storyboard. It did, however, make extensive use of the jump cutting technique which had characterised *Joy*.

Mr Christopher Floyd, QC, and Mr Mark Vanhegan for the plaintiff; Mr Peter Prescott, QC, and Mr Thomas Mitcheson for the first defendant; Mr Adrian Speck for the second and third defendants.

MR JUSTICE RATTEE set out section 1(1) of the 1988 Act and other provisions relating to dramatic work and film. It was common ground that the only description of work relevant in the present case was dramatic work, and that the plaintiff was entitled to no copyright under the 1988 Act in respect of *Joy* unless it was, or was a recording of a dramatic work within the meaning of section 1(1) of the Act.

His Lordship accepted that had the finished film been a recording of the dance routine performed by the actor in *Joy* in front of the camera, it might well have represented a recording of dance or mime, and, therefore, a dramatic work.

It did not. A large, probably the major part of the effect of the film was the quirky or surreal effect produced by the editing techniques used by the plaintiff in the cutting room after shooting of the film was complete, and, in particular, the technique of jump cutting.

The finished result was something very different from a recording on film of the dance or mime routine performed by the actor. The result was that, when the film was shown to the viewer, what he saw was a sequence of movements apparently performed by the actor, but which in reality was not, and could not physically have been performed by any actor.

In his Lordship's judgment a film per se could not be a dramatic work within the meaning of the 1988 Act. It could, on the other hand, be a recording of a dramatic work for the purpose of section 3(2) of the 1988 Act.

The dramatic work was something that existed apart from the film, even if the film was the only form in which it was recorded. Thus copyright could subsist in a work of dance by virtue of its being recorded on film, but the film was the recording of the dramatic work, not the dramatic work itself.

It was not, in his Lordship's judgment, open to his Lordship to try to fill the resulting lacuna by giving a forced construction to the meaning of the term "dramatic work" as used in the Act.

The conclusion that *Joy* was neither a dramatic work nor a recording of a dramatic work was fatal to the action.

His Lordship did, however, go on to consider the second issue, namely whether, assuming *Joy* was a dramatic work in respect of which copyright subsisted, *Anticipation* infringed that copyright, and concluded that it did not.

Solicitors: Briffa & Co, Islington; Theodore Goddard; Herbert Smith.

Owner of goods advertised should also be served

O'Brien v Croydon London Borough Council
Before Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Thomas
[Judgment June 26]

For the purposes of regulation 8 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations (SI 1992 No 666), "advertisement" included the person whose goods were advertised on the hoarding. Accordingly, it was also necessary to serve him with a notice requiring the discontinuance of the display of an advertisement.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an

allowance as from April 16, 1997.

HIS LORDSHIP said regulation 12(3) of the Social Security (Persons from Abroad) Miscellaneous Amendments Regulations (SI 1996 No 30) had the effect that in the case of a person in receipt of disability living allowance before February 5, 1996, any question arising as to his entitlement to that allowance, whether arising on an award or a claim, was to be determined as if regulation 4 of the 1996 Regulations had not been made, until the date upon which his entitlement to that allowance was reviewed under section 30 of the 1992 Act, if such review was made.

Regulation 8 provides:
(1) The local planning authority may serve a notice requiring the discontinuance of the display of an advertisement, or the use of a site for the display of an advertisement...

(2) A discontinuance notice (a)

shall be served on the advertiser and on the owner and occupier of the site on which the advertisement is displayed...

The appellant in person: Mr Simon Birks for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that the second question stated by Croydon Crown Court was whether the word "advertisement" in regulation 8 referred to the person who displayed the advertisement rather than the person whose goods were advertised.

The appellant submitted that the discontinuance notice had not been properly served in that it was not served on the person whose goods were advertised on the hoarding.

His Lordship said that the appellant's argument succeeded.

It was telling that both regulation 12(3) and section 224(3) and (4) provided that a person displaying an advertisement included any person who received publicity by the advertisement.

It must therefore have been the person whose goods were advertised that the draftsman had primarily in mind in regulation 8(2).

However, his Lordship held that the appellant had suffered no prejudice by the failure to serve the advertiser, accordingly, he dismissed the appeal.

Mr Justice Thomas agreed.

Solicitors: Stonehams, Croydon.

Allowance continues

Regina v Adjudication Officer, Ex parte B

A asylum seeker granted disability living allowance before provisions disqualifying asylum seekers from such allowance came into force could continue to receive that allowance until the date his entitlement to the allowance was reviewed under section 30 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992.

Mr Justice Sedley so held in the Queen's Bench Division when giving reasons on June 19 for refusing to grant an application for judicial review of the refusal by the adjudicator on November 25, 1997 to renew B's claim for disability

jointly owned property to which Mrs Cooke had contributed most of the purchase price.

The basis of that claim was that Mrs Cooke's execution of the guarantee and the legal charge was procured by Mr Cooke's undue influence over her of which the bank had notice. See *Borealis Bank plc v O'Brien* [1994] 1 AC 180.

The bank counterclaimed for judgment on the guarantee. The basis of the summary judgment was its allegation that it was accepted that there was a triable issue on the question of undue influence, the bank's notice of it.

The essential facts, so far as now known, were that in March 1989 the bank requested the second defendant to see that Mrs Cooke was given separate advice on the import of the guarantee and the very real liability she was entering into, and to confirm that that advice had been given.

The second defendants did not respond to that request and the bank was told that Mrs Cooke had not been over-anxious to give the guarantee. There was nothing to show that she had consented to its being returned.

In the circumstances, it had to be fairly arguable that the bank, not having had a response to its March 1989 letter and with the knowledge of Mrs Cooke's reluctance, ought reasonably to have satisfied itself of her consent at that time. Mrs Cooke should have unconditional leave to defend the bank's counterclaim.

Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice May agreed.

Solicitors: Clement Jones, Holywell; Wilde Sapie.

MR JUSTICE NOURSE said that Mrs Cooke's claim as against the bank was to set aside (i) a guarantee of the liabilities to the bank of a company owned and controlled by her husband, and (ii) a legal charge in favour of the bank of Chobham Farm, Chobham, a

jointly owned property to which Mrs Cooke had contributed most of the purchase price.

The basis of that claim was that Mrs Cooke's execution of the guarantee and the legal charge was procured by Mr Cooke's undue influence over her of which the bank had notice. See *Borealis Bank plc v O'Brien* [1994] 1 AC 180.

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Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice May agreed.

Solicitors: Clement Jones, Holywell; Wilde Sapie.

Housing aid for asylum seeker

Lismane v Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council
Before Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Hutchison
[Judgment June 29]

An asylum seeker provided with temporary accommodation that was unsuitable for her needs was not entitled to being ineligible for housing assistance by virtue of section 186(1) of the Housing Act 1996.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Tatjana Lismane, from Judge Cowell in West London County Court in May 1998 who held that Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council had not been required to rehouse her. The appeal was not opposed by the council.

Section 175 of the 1996 Act provides: "(1) A person is homeless if he has no accommodation available for his occupation..."

(3) A person shall not be treated as having accommodation unless it is accommodation which it would be reasonable for him to continue to occupy...

Section 186 provides: "(1) An asylum seeker... is not eligible for assistance under this Part if he has any accommodation in the United Kingdom, however temporary, available for his occupation."

MR JUSTICE NOURSE said that the question was whether an asylum seeker who fell within section 186(1) of the 1996 Act also fell within section 175(3).

The plaintiff, a citizen of Latvia,

arrived in the United Kingdom in August 1997 claiming that she was fleeing from persecution. She brought her son and they joined her husband in a single room in Shepherd's Bush. She was expecting their second child in November.

On the evidence it was manifestly arguable that the accommodation was not accommodation which it would be reasonable for the plaintiff to continue to occupy within section 175(3).

If sections 175 and 176 of the Act had stood alone, their effect would be clear. The plaintiff having accommodation which it was not reasonable for her to continue to occupy together with her husband and her son, she would be treated as being homeless and as qualifying for housing assistance under sections 179 to 184.

However, it was the judge's view that she was rendered ineligible for assistance by section 186(1). He was wrong.

There was no context in section 186(1) which could exclude the application of section 175(3) from a consideration of the question whether a person within section 186(1) had accommodation available for his or her occupation within section 186(1).

Lord Justice Hutchison agreed.

Solicitors: Ms Kate Bell, Hammersmith; Mr Cornelius T. Mahoney, Hammersmith.

Capsule correctly classified as food and not medicine

Unigreg Ltd v Commissioners of Customs and Excise
Before Mr Justice Moses
[Judgment July 8]

A product which consisted of capsules containing vitamins and minerals essential for the body's nutrition was correctly classified as a food preparation under heading 21.06 of the Combined Nomenclature of the Common Customs Tariff contained in EC Regulation 2658/87 (OJ 1987 No L256/1) and not a medicament for therapeutic or prophylactic uses under heading 30.04.

Mr Justice Moses so held in the Queen's Bench Division, in dismissing an appeal by Unigreg Ltd from the decision of the VAT and Duties Tribunal on August 14, 1997, which classified *Foreval* under heading 21.06 which made it thereby being eligible for duty.

Mr Robert Venables, QC, and Mr Julian Ghosh for Unigreg; Mr Nicholas Paines, QC, for the Commissioners of Customs and Excise.

MR

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

job	Stock	Pctg	Wtd	Int	Gr	Sh	Sh
estimating (%)		%	%	%	%	%	%
HORTS (over 5 years)							
130	Tree 7-4.5 1991	100	-	7.25	7.55	11,800	Tree 7-4.5 2000
136	Tree 15-4.0 1991	100%	-	5.81	7.00	5,871	Tree 15-4.0 2000
142	Tree 12-5 1991	100%	-	11.44	7.44	2,458	Tree 12-5 2000
150	Tree 10-4 1991	100%	-	9.42	7.44	4,750	Tree 10-4 2010
163	Tree 12-4.5 1991	100%	-	10.40	7.44	5,078	Tree 12-4.5 2011
262	Tree 10-4.5 1991	100%	-	10.40	7.44	5,078	Tree 10-4.5 2012
350	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2000-12
351	Tree 10-6 1991	100%	-	10.40	7.44	1,000	Tree 10-6 2002-15
353	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
355	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
356	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
357	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
358	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
359	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
360	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
361	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
362	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
363	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
364	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
365	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
366	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
367	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
368	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
369	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
370	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
371	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
372	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
373	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
374	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
375	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
376	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
377	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
378	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
379	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
380	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
381	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
382	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
383	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
384	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
385	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
386	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
387	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
388	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
389	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-	6.00	7.35	1,000	Tree 6-5 2002-15
390	Tree 6-5 1991	100%	-				

EDUMS (5 to 15 years)				1989: U.S. 7.0%	
600	Time 7/6-2002	101%	- 1/2	0.86	6.54
557	Time 7/6-2000	101%	- 1/2	0.77	5.60
557	Time 7/6-2000	101%	- 1/2	0.84	6.12
557	Time 7/6-2000	101%	- 1/2	0.85	6.27
557	Time 7/6-2000	101%	- 1/2	0.85	6.27
545	Time 7/6-2004-04	91%	- 1/2	3.41	1.19
412	Time 7/6-2000	101%	- 1/2	0.15	2.45
385	Time 7/6-2000	101%	- 1/2	0.05	6.05
379	Time 7/6-2000	101%	- 1/2	7.47	6.13
345	Time 7/6-2000	101%	- 1/2	0.86	2.85
345	Time 7/6-2000	101%	- 1/2	0.81	2.71
325	Time 7/6-2000-05	101%	- 1/2	0.86	3.70
700	Time 7/6-2000	101%	- 1/2	2.89	3.57
600	Time 7/6-2000	101%	- 1/2	7.02	5.16
557	Time 7/6-2000-07	101%	- 1/2	0.81	3.80
557	Time 7/6-2000-07	101%	- 1/2	0.81	3.80
557	Time 7/6-2000-07	101%	- 1/2	0.81	3.80

Firms hit by skills mortgage

Market cap: £3.8 billion
Turnover: £3.81 billion
Pre-tax profit: £226.3 million
Employees: 43,000

Overview: Ladbrokes owns Hilton International, which has more than 170 hotels in 50 countries outside the US. It also owns Ladbrokes, the UK's biggest bookmaker, and Vernons Pools, as well as various gaming and betting interests in the US, Egypt and South America.

THE BOSS

Group chief executive is Peter George, 54, who joined Ladbrokes Racing in 1963, joining the main board in 1980. Mr George became vice-chairman and joint managing director in 1990, and chief executive in January 1994. As a result of the hotel alliance signed with Hilton Hotels Corporation of the US last year he also sits on the HHC board. He is a council member of Business in the Community and a trustee of Industry in Education.

The non-executive chairman since 1994 has been John Jackson, 63, a board member since 1980. He is chairman of several other public companies, including Celtech, Xenova and Wyndham Press. The other non-executive directors are David Davies, chairman and chief executive of Johnson Matthey; Lady Patricia, a member of the advisory board of Bain & Co; Russell Wells, finance director of BAA; Derek Williams, former managing director of Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages; and Steve Bollenbach, president and chief executive officer of HHC.

Brian Wallace, 44, became finance director in 1995 after five years as finance director of Geest. A chartered accountant, he has had spells with Price Waterhouse, APV and Schlumberger.

The chief executive of Hilton International is David Jarvis, 51, who joined the group in 1995 after 23 years with Allied Domecq, the past three as a main board director. Heading the betting and gaming division is Mike Smith, a former director of Bownat. Mr Smith, 51, has held senior positions with Grand Metropolitan, Ford and British Leyland.

FOR a company so firmly ensconced among the UK's top 100 companies, Ladbrokes Group has an oddly ragged look about it. Its on-off marriage with Hilton Hotels Corporation of the US and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission threat to its takeover of Coral have combined to give it the appearance of a company with plenty of loose ends to tie up.

Such an appraisal is probably unfair on Peter George, the chief executive, who has given back to Ladbrokes the focus it had begun to lose during the last years of Cyril Stein's 37-year stewardship. Under George, a loyal Stein lieutenant, it has got back to operating businesses where, as one Ladbrokes watcher put it, there is no inventory on the shelf.

Having previously been involved with Ladbrokes's disastrous Laskys electrical retailing business, which was sold to Granada, one of the first things George did after replacing Stein was to seek a way out of Texas Homecare and the group's commercial property portfolio. To his credit, he did so more quickly and efficiently than most had expected.

The disposals enabled him to bolster a balance sheet that, weighed down by a £1.6 billion debt mountain, was looking distinctly shaky when he took the reins. His early strategy involved focusing on growth that involved limited capital investment. To that end, the Hilton International business acquired in 1987 was ideal, because it was capable of being expanded largely through management contracts with, at most, a small equity involvement. The other advantage of concentrating on betting and hotels during this transitional period was that both are excellent cash-flow generators.

George was also quick to rectify one of the more ignominious episodes in the company's history, when it was kicked out of the casino business by the Gaming Board after illegally enticing high-rolling gamblers away from rival clubs. In September 1994, after a gap of 15 years, George oversaw a return to casinos, paying £50 million for three London clubs — Maxims, Charlie Chesters and the Golden Horseshoe.

The other big challenge that George has faced is one over which he had no control. The launch of the National Lottery in November 1994 threw the entire betting industry into disarray and caused pandemonium in Ladbrokes's Vernons



Ladbrokes, where Peter George, top left, is chief executive, and John Jackson, chairman, owns Hilton International, including the London Hilton, top right, outside the US and is the UK's largest bookmaker. In the United States, its gaming and betting interests include a casino in Colorado

pools business. Having seen more than three quarters of Vernons' turnover wiped out, many observers expected George to cut his losses and sell. But having cut swaths through its cost base, the new management team installed by George is now running a considerably smaller operation at a small profit.

The unveiling last week of Easy Play, its online football-based game played on National Lottery terminals, takes Vernons into an area of expertise that could eventually be translated onto an international stage.

On the betting side the revival has been more dramatic. With other operators, Ladbrokes responded to the Lottery by launching a series of numbers games, such as 49s, while developing betting on other sports such as football and golf — both with higher margins than betting on horses. It was probably inevitable

that George should not be satisfied to sit back and consolidate the group's position largely through organic growth. Indeed, a prime move in this change was Brian Wallace, the group's highly regarded finance director, who has also played a big role in reassuring those investors who remain sceptical of George's abilities.

So when it became apparent at the end of last year that Bass wanted to sell Coral, the third-biggest bookmaker behind Ladbrokes and William Hill, George and Wallace did not hesitate to move quickly to tie up a deal.

Encouraged by informal guidance from the Office of Fair Trading, Ladbrokes signed an unconditional £363 million deal with Bass and arranged to sell on 133 shops to the Tote to satisfy the competition issues raised by the OFT. That was where George's luck ran out. The deal was referred to the MMC, which is widely expected to recommend that, at the very least, Ladbrokes be forced to offload about 500 shops when it submits its report to the Government this month. Because it is an unconditional deal, it is Ladbrokes — not Bass — that will have to bear any losses.

"The very fact that Ladbrokes went for Inter-Continental Hotels shows that they probably have a lot more vision and courage than most people give them credit for. It makes the Coral deal look relatively insignificant."

Simon Johnson, leisure analyst, Credit Suisse First Boston

"Management have done a very good job overcoming Lottery-related problems over the last three years. But the future outlook is a little more mixed as they clearly need to invest in both gaming and hotels if they're going to maintain the required earnings growth. This strategic question mark is the only thing holding them back."

Fraser Ramzan, leisure analyst, Lehman Brothers

Although a forced sell-off would be a blow to George, his subsequent actions show that he is willing to go for bigger prizes, this time in hotels. Not long after the Coral deal, it emerged that Ladbrokes had put in a serious offer for Inter-Continental Hotels, making it the shortest stage. Speculation of a more formal deal with Hilton Hotels Corporation, with which it al-

ready pools sales, marketing and reservations, has been rife for the past few months. This rose to a crescendo a few weeks ago when HHC unveiled plans to demerge its hotel and casino interests at the end of this year, prompting widespread suggestions that the ground was being laid for Ladbrokes to acquire the hotels side of HHC.

What is certain is that Ladbrokes has conducted a certain amount of due diligence on the US Hilton business, reportedly valuing the portfolio at \$8 billion (£5 billion).

For the time being, the issue appears to have been returned to the back-burner, although if Steve Bollenbach, the head of HHC, decides he definitely wants to sell, then Ladbrokes will not be slow in returning to the bargaining table.

Analysts are also quick to point out that the strategic alliance between the two Hiltons already delivers huge benefits,

and that there is scope for further dividends even if the marriage is never formalised.

With so many issues unresolved, and "more than enough for me to do until I retire", as George put it recently, a move into new business areas is not top of his agenda. However, he is known to keep a lookout for any opportunities in related businesses and is understood to have had a cursory look at Thomson Travel Corporation before its flotation. One analyst said: "A move into the corporate travel business would make a logical move for Ladbrokes if either of its two main businesses began to run out of steam."

All this is a far cry from the company George found in 1963 when he joined the setting department of Ladbrokes, which was then a credit betting operation in the West End of London. Another thing that has changed is his salary. George, whose father and grandfather were both bookies, was paid a basic salary of £450,000 last year, which rose to £745,000 including his bonus. Share options and other long-term incentives doubled that to an estimated £1.5 million. However, Crisp Consulting reckons his length of experience and the company's profile mean he ought to be earning closer to £2.3 million.

At the other end of the scale, our experts were deeply unimpressed with the group's ethical approach. According to Integrity Works, it has the usual clutch of environmental policies, but it is not clear precisely what it stands for in terms of business principles. The consultancy concludes: "Annual report rhetoric about 'integrity' and 'high standards of business ethics' is nowadays insufficient to meet established best-practice standards."

DOMINIC WALSH

Ethical expression	1/10
Fit-cat quotient	10/10
Financial record	7/10
Share performance	8/10
Attitude to staff	7/10
Strength of brand	9/10
Innovation	10/10
Annual report	7/10
City star rating	8/10
Future prospects	7/10
Total	74/100

Ethical expression is measured by Integrity Works, the first company, in which best business practices scores highest, is provided by Crisp Consulting.

Firms hit by skills shortage

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

SMALL British firms are suffering from a management skills deficit but are still falling behind larger companies in what they are prepared to pay executives, according to the Institute of Management. Its 1998 Smaller Business Review finds that executives of small companies — firms with annual turnover of less than £60 million — have seen their pay rise by 5.2 per cent this year.

This is substantially below the national average for executives of 7.2 per cent but still well up on the population as a whole, whose average earnings are up 4.2 per cent on a year ago.

Mary Chapman, the Institute of Management director-general, said: "This survey raises concerns about the performance of the small business sector. Small businesses are already suffering a management skills deficit and unless they can keep pace in the pay stakes, they will continue to lag competitively."

Among companies recruiting, 28 per cent said they were experiencing difficulties finding managers. Of these, 73 per cent cited lack of relevant skills as the main problem. The institute said that boardroom bonuses are now 17.8 per cent of average salary, against 18.5 per cent last year.

THG legal threat over packages for Sydney Olympics

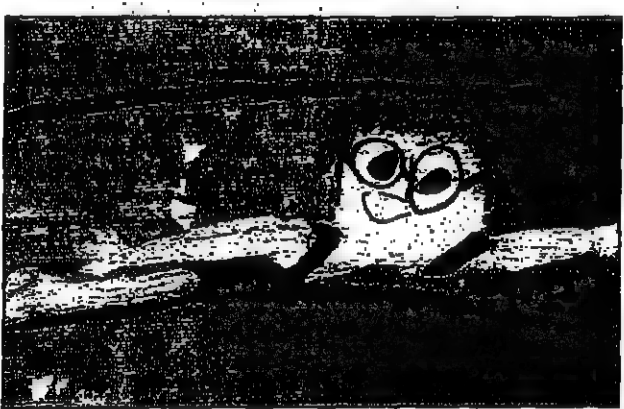
By MATTHEW BARBOUR

A CORPORATE hospitality company based in the UK could face legal action from organisers of the Sydney Olympic Games for selling packages including seats for the 2000 Olympic finals when the tickets are not yet on sale.

The packages, offered by THG Worldwide at more than A\$17,500 (£6,730), came to the attention of the Sydney Olympic Games Organising Committee (Sogoc) when advertisements appeared with itineraries including luxury hospitality functions followed by swimming, athletics and soccer finals. According to Sogoc, the advertisements also imply a seat to the Olympic finals is included.

Such packages, they say, could lead to scenarios such as those witnessed at this year's World Cup, where hundreds of companies that had paid up to £2,750 per person to entertain clients at the event were told minutes before matches that no tickets were available.

Several British companies, such as International Championship Management and The Mall Entertainments, went into liquidation after they failed to get tickets and were



The first Olympic posters are ready but tickets are not yet for sale

forced to spend up to £800 per ticket on the black market. According to Sogoc, no company can guarantee Olympic tickets or their cost because tickets are not on sale nor prices announced.

John Moore, Sogoc's marketing group general manager, said: "I think they probably believe that they can get tickets out there on the black market. But they won't get them from us. Tickets are not available yet and won't be until next year."

Organisers would take legal action to protect sponsors and individuals, Mr Moore said. "Our lawyers are looking at it,

and if we have good grounds, then we will be taking action." THG said it has been offering similar packages to sporting events for more than 15 years. The company said it made no guarantee that it could provide tickets, emphasising that it acted as a "facilitator" in obtaining tickets.

THG said that it has since changed its advertisements to satisfy Sogoc. However, a Sogoc spokesman said: "THG amended it to their own satisfaction. Our response to them is that we don't feel satisfied."

Marcus Evans, director at THG, was unavailable for comment yesterday.

BoS backs City Inn concept

By DOMINIC WALSH

TWO of Edinburgh's leading business figures have secured backing from the Bank of Scotland to launch a new budget hotel concept, City Inn.

Sandy Orr, a director of Scottish Radio Holdings, and Donald MacDonald, chairman of Edinburgh Small Companies Trust, have joined forces to develop the brand in six or seven of the UK's biggest cities.

The men, both non-executive directors of Macdonald Hotels, will develop the City Inn brand through a new company called First Stop Hotels. They have previously been involved in funding and developing six Novotel in the UK, Edinburgh's Travel Inn and Sheraton hotels through their corporate finance company, Macdonald Orr.

The first two City Inns will open next year in Bristol and Glasgow, each with 167 rooms and costing less than £6.5 million apiece. Within three years they hope to establish the chain in Manchester, Edinburgh, Birmingham, London and possibly Aberdeen.

Mr Orr described City Inn as a "luxury budget" concept with facilities limited to a restaurant and an exercise room, at just £49 for a four-star standard air-conditioned room, with a cheaper rate at weekends.

Xaar sues US company over inkjet patents

By TIMON DAY

XAAR, the inkjet printing technology company based in Cambridge, has issued writs in the UK and the US against Calcomp, a Californian printing machinery company quoted on Nasdaq, which is supported by its major shareholder, Lockheed Martin, the aerospace group.

Xaar alleges Calcomp's new Crystal Jet poster printer infringes its key patents. Xaar has licensed nine companies to use its revolutionary technology, including Brother of Germany and Pitney-Bowes in the US. Zeneca, the UK drugs and pigments company, is licensed to make the special inks needed to use Xaar technology.

Xaar floated last year, is a leading-edge British high-tech firm. Its printhead technology has the potential to revolutionise printing processes worldwide. Machines using its ultra-fast printing heads could replace laser printers in offices, litho-offset presses at printing works and screen printers in textile companies.

It will take a year before the case is heard in Britain, and 18 months in America. Jonathan Lowe, Xaar finance director, said: "We've had a lot of support from our customers. As a company dependant on protecting our intellectual proper-

ty we have no choice but to take action."

Mr Lowe admits that the action is unsettling for investors in Xaar because "there is the remote risk of not winning the case", which would then imperil the company's future.

As a result, Xaar shares fell 12p to 130p when the action was announced this month.

Mr Lowe is confident of signing up more licensees, with a tenth expected before the December year-end. Commercial prototypes of the page-wide array printhead, with its 2,500 nozzles, are on schedule to be delivered in about five months' time.

Office printers using this technology will be able to print, in a minute, 50 pages of A4 paper on both sides in colour. Xaar currently makes and licenses printheads a third of this size.

Office printing machine giants such as Hewlett Packard and Canon are watching Xaar closely because their own bubble-jet and laser machines risk becoming increasingly uncompetitive.

Mr Lowe said: "We would think twice about selling our technology to these companies as they are too big. They would hurt the sales of our existing licensees."

Rio phones sale sparks fierce fight

By MARTIN BARROW

THE \$14 billion (£8.44 billion) auction of Telebras, Brazil's huge state-owned telecoms network, has attracted fierce competition from some of the world's biggest telephone companies.

MCI, Sprint and BellSouth Corp. of America, Japan's NTT, Spain's Telefonica, and Telecom Italia, are all vying for a stake in the network, which is to be sold at a marathon day-long tender in the Rio de Janeiro bourse on Wednesday.

British companies have given the auction a wide berth. BT and Cable & Wireless, which have big international ambitions, have decided not to participate. Another notable absentee is America's AT&T Corp.

The Telebras sale, Latin America's biggest privatisation, comes two months before national polls in which President Fernando Henrique Cardoso hopes to be re-elected for a second four-year term.

Companies are bidding for stakes in the 12 operating companies that make up Telebras. The Brazilian Government's asking price is \$11.7 billion but intense competition is likely to drive prices up to a total of \$14 billion. The operating companies are three fixed-line firms, eight wireless firms and one long-distance firm.

THE WAY YOUR BUSINESS
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Business confidence plummets

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESS confidence in the UK has slumped to its lowest level in four years, a new report claims today.

The Chartered Institute of Marketing trends survey confidence index has fallen to 91.2, having stood at 96.1 in April.

Nearly half of all marketing managers are forecasting that they will not achieve their sales targets.

The sales record was even worse in five sectors — food, drink and tobacco; chemicals; property; wholesale and distribution and manufacturing — with nearly two thirds of companies failing to meet their sales expectations.

Planned sales growth now averages 8 per cent compared with 8.8 per cent last year.

Douglas McWilliams, economic adviser to the Chartered Institute of Marketing, said: "We are now seeing the slowdown spread to the service sector as well as the manufacturing sector."

"While this may be later than the Bank of England had planned, it is evidence that the high interest rate medicine is starting to work its way through the economy."

RAILTRACK is bracing itself for radical proposals to be published tomorrow by John Swift, the rail regulator, which could lead to upheaval in the pricing regime.

Rail industry sources believe that the consultation document on the periodic review could include a proposal to revisit the value of Railtrack's asset base. The City believes that Railtrack has received an easy ride and the regulator is concerned that the current pricing formula of RPI-2 is based on too generous a rate of return.

Railtrack's market value has soared since flotation, suggesting the market sees the business as low-risk.

Currently, government subsidies are paid to train operators, which in turn pay Railtrack for access to the network. Suggestions have also been made that Railtrack's access charges should be linked to passenger volumes rather than trains.

Such a change would link

By CARL MORTISHED

Railtrack's financial interest more directly to the success of the train operators. Currently, Railtrack is paid access charges whether trains are empty or full.

Railtrack will argue vigorously that it needs a generous regime because of its commitment to high-risk projects such as the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and the North West mainline upgrade.

However, Mr. Swift is under no obligation to take the Channel Tunnel into account in assessing Railtrack's permitted return because it does not fall into the basket of regulated income. Railtrack is under pressure to reduce train delays, having produced almost no improvement last year.

Mr Swift's consultation doc-

ument follows the publication by the Government of extraordinary proposals to take control of some £1.7 billion of Railtrack's revenues.

In its paper *A new deal for the Railways* it states that Railtrack needs adequate incentives to develop the network. "That could point to a proportion of Railtrack's access income being paid direct by the SRA, rather than via passenger ticket surcharges."

Some of the Railtrack executives fear that such a move could push the utility back into the position of a contractor, doing the Government's bidding and realising the Labour Party's original objective of bringing the rail assets back into public ownership and control.

The regulator will also publish his conclusions on Railtrack's Network Management Statement tomorrow. Mr Swift will call for improvements in track quality and better performance on delays.

Peter Keenan, chief executive, plans to land Parc Group in September, with a shares price guide due next month

Parc ready to take off for market

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

PARC GROUP, the specialist staffing group which supplies contract airline pilots for British Airways' new low-cost airline Go, plans to list on the London and Irish stock exchanges in September. Parc, where Peter Keenan is chief executive, is the world leader in the supply of contract airline pilots, exploit-

ing a trend set by BA to outsource large parts of the business of running an airline. In addition to pilots, Parc provides technical staff and information technology. Shares will be placed with institutional investors and a guide price should be available in late August.

Parc's management acquired the business from Aer Lingus in April 1995 in a management buyout supported by Mer-

cury Asset Management. MAM has a 49 per cent stake and has indicated it intends to retain a share in the business.

Pare, which also provides consultancy services, counts BAe, Japanese Airlines, Britannia, Airbus, SAS and TEA Switzerland among its clients.

In the year to March 31 profit before interest, tax and exceptionals was up 52 per cent at 1RF2.82 million.

BAe poised to sell property offshoot

BY CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH AEROSPACE is believed to be close to selling Arlington, its property subsidiary, to a buyout team led by Prudential of America, at a price thought to be below its estimated book value.

Priceo is said to have agreed a price of £300 million, which compares with a £400 million price mooted a year ago when BAE was considering a flotation of the business near developer and Hammerson, but potential bidders have been put off by the uncertain value of Arlington's huge land bank.

The City turned up its nose at the company, which has a lot of building land but lacks a portfolio with a sufficiently large income stream to attract investors. Instead of assembling an investment portfolio

Patrick Deigman, Arlington's chief executive, is likely to remain if Pricon buys it.

Good business is a family affair

BY OUR CITY STAFF

CAN companies be truly family friendly? Are there competitive advantages to be gained from being so?

These are the crucial issues to be addressed at a special conference this autumn where *The Times* will join with *Management Today* to launch *The Great Work/Life Debate*.

Managers are increasingly striving to find ways of balancing their careers and their home lives and some companies are waking up to the need to try to help them.

On October 8 a top line-up of speakers will examine the implications this has for business and illustrate how some organisations are gaining from implementing family friendly policies. Directors

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1988	Low	Mid cap (millions)	Price	High	Yld %	P/E	1987	Low	Mid cap (millions)	Price	High	Yld %	P/E
151	74%	23.10 AFA Services	186	+ 15%	...	...	49%	33%	3.92 American	44%	- 1	7	...
152	110%	16.90 AMCO Corp	187	...	7.2	59	82	33%	3.92 American	300%	- 7	2	...
153	144%	3.89 ATA Corp	127%	...	...	...	216	43%	25.30 Jennings Bros	...	...	2.8	24.7
154	...	3.89 Accos, Inc.	127%	...	...	...	416	33%	3.90 Lamps Home	...	...	4.3	11.9
155	...	41.00 A & S Grocery	27%	...	3.9	19.3	110	62%	40%	...	...	...	...
156	...	3.97 Adiant Corp	230	...	...	...	17%	33%	6.90 Jumbo Int	33%	- 2	...	...
157	65%	1.46 Aco	230	...	...	...	17%	33%	3.90 Jumbo Int	33%	- 2	...	...
158	...	32.30 Albemarle & Int	...	...	0.7	21.1	100%	33%	130.00	...	+ 16	...	...
159	...	12.50 Alayne	35	...	...	...	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5	...	...
160	...	13.00 Amsted Metals	35	...	...	...	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5	...	...
161	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	...	...	...	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5	...	...
162	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	...	...	...	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5	...	...
163	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	...	...	...	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5	...	...
164	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	...	...	...	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5	...	...
165	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	...	...	...	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5	...	...
166	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	...	...	...	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5	...	...
167	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	...	...	...	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5	...	...
168	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5
169	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5
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172	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5
173	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5
174	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	...	...	...	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5	...	...
175	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	...	...	...	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5	...	...
176	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	...	...	...	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5	...	...
177	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	...	...	...	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5	...	...
178	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	...	...	...	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5	...	...
179	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	...	...	...	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5	...	...
180	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	...	...	...	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5	...	...
181	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	...	...	...	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5	...	...
182	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5
183	...	10.00 Amstar Corp	35	42%	33%	3.74 Am River	33%	- 5
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In America, even their dreams are bigger

I have never believed in the American dream," said Dave Moore, the descendant of slaves and former Ford factory union man. Coming so near the beginning of *Pastures of Plenty* (BBC2, Sunday), the first of a five-part social history entitled *The American Dream*, this sounded an appropriately cautionary note. Having a dream is, after all, what makes America different. The poor and oppressed may emigrate to Britain, but they don't see anything visionary about opening a mini-mart in Leicester.

The phrase is as much a part of American national mythology as Old Glory, Coca-Cola or Disneyland, a collective assertion of unity among the most disparate population on earth and a definition of how they are supposed to feel about being there. It is really a collection of virtues, most unquestionably admirable: energy, optimism, self-reliance, ambition,

daring, a refusal to be held back by European nonsense about social status and an almost spiritual yearning to own a really big car. This series seems to have been conceived as a celebration of the dream, of its durability and continuing relevance. What was fascinating about last night's programme was the way it had to wrestle with material which was pulling in the opposite direction.

America may be the world's most technologically advanced nation but it has a fine tradition of oral history, and this was a rich montage of personal recollections in the tradition of Studs Terkel, or the collectors of the folk songs on the soundtrack.

One strand concerned the Peabodys, a wealthy New England family and, in American terms, very old money. So we got the line about the Pilgrim Fathers and the quest for religious freedom. Except that the Peabodys were Episcopalian, a refusal to be held back by European nonsense about social status and an almost spiritual yearning to own a really big car.

lians, that is labelled Anglicans. Endicott Peabody was headmaster of Groton, an elite Neo-Gothic prep school where the boys wear straw boaters and the choir wear white robes. Even the church is mock medieval English.

Most of the material, however, dealt with the struggles of the poor. There were two families from the dustbowl, pure Steinbeck, describing their fertile farmland turned into a cloud of dirt and blown away. Hobos hopped trains, babies starved in Detroit during the Depression because their mothers could not feed them, and redundant workers queued for free bones to make soup.

The Ford workers sang "Solidarity for ever! For the union makes us strong!" to the tune of *John Brown's Body*, while the company's security men shot them dead or beat them with baseball bats.

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

And what saved America? A Groton alumnus named Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose school regarded him as virtual communist and a class-traitor, because his quasi-socialist New Deal looked suspiciously un-American. By the late 1930s the dream looked rather more like a fantasy, but then arrived like a *deus ex machina* to cure the Depression as the Great Fire of London cured the

plague. Laid-off Maltese immigrant Joe Misfud could replace his treasured motor car, which he had had to sell to a farmer during the Depression. So that was all right then. The dream was reborn and should be good for a few more centuries, if they can keep the economy buoyant.

What this programme showed powerfully and often movingly, was that the dream as experienced by real American families is much more flawed and complex than mythology allows. And that their struggles, miseries and triumphs have been much more like those of the rest of the world than they sometimes like to admit.

Mind you, some things will always be different. I don't envisage an American network running a series about an elderly female private eye, who sounds as though she should be running a tea-shop in Wensleydale. Presumably the joke is that the hand-knitted heroine of

Hetty Wainthropp Investigates (BBC1, Friday) is the antithesis of Sam Spade: motherly, sensible and not addicted to cigarettes. Bourbon or cynical slang. The only hard-boiled dick in this dame's house would be spotted and served for afters.

Patricia Routledge seems more at home in this role than the more confining grotesqueries of Hyacinth Bucket in *Keeping Up Appearances*. Her character puts the series in the "northern comfort food" category of television, which has proved so enduringly successful, but in this episode at least there was a hearty dollop of social realism mixed with the whimsy.

The plot concerned the death of an iron ore miner, killed while trying to recover valuable minerals which had been hidden down a side-tunnel before the mine was closed as a working concern. There

was a mystery to unravel, a dash of *Boys' Own Paper* adventure, for Hetty's young sidekick Geoffrey (Dominic Monaghan) and a note of motherly concern for a community struggling to survive after losing its economic base. The ingredients were as lightly mixed as a well-baked scone; a very English sort of dream.

The Vanishing Man (ITV, Saturday) is fun for children of all ages from 7 to 77. This is a marvellous nonsense for big kids, which asks us to believe in a scientific research project to make people invisible, with the comically ominous name of CYGEX.

Neil Morrissey has toned down his *Men Behaving Badly* character slightly, retaining the ingenious puppyish charm and inability to disguise his motives. The comedy thriller is a difficult genre. As usual the thriller element suffers, but the compensation is some nicely underplayed humour.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (78824)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (56398)
9.00 Kilroy (7) (397808)
9.40 **What Now?** Leslie Grantham, Emma Byrne and the Reverend Victor Stock consider personal dilemmas (7) (450227)
10.05 **Meet the Challenge** D1 game show (8010078)
10.30 **Beautiful Things** (1113756)
10.40 News (7) and weather (588448)
10.50 **International Cricket: Fourth Test—England v South Africa** The final morning at Trent Bridge (16709973)
1.00pm News (7) and weather (59485)
1.30 **Regional News** (7) (1571089)
1.40 **Newsnight** (7) (4908843)
2.05 **Porter Mason: The Case of the All-Star Assassin** An injured professional hockey player is wrongly accused of murdering his power-hungry boss (7) (9613550)
3.35 **Noddy** (7522485) 3.45 **Playdays** (8064244) 4.05 **Popeye** (2374640) 4.15 **Casper** (9599970) 4.35 **50/50** (3728263)
5.00 **Newsround** (7) (3678602) 5.10 **The Big (7)** (8271843)
5.35 **Neighbours** (7) (7) (932911)
6.00 News (7) and weather (331)
6.30 **Regional News** (7) (911)
7.00 **Television's Greatest Hits With One Foot in the Grave** star Richard Wilson, Gabby Reece, Jo Brand and Dr Paul Slade of *Doctor's Orders* (7) (4553)
7.30 **Watchdog** Healthcheck Angela Rippon looks into so-called sick building syndrome; Alice Bear asks why anaesthesia is still a regular feature of dentistry work in the light of recent safety concerns. Plus: how the legalising of cannabis for medical use has helped patients in California (7) (185)
8.00 **EastEnders** Sanjay agonises over taking back his errant wife, Gita; Frank puts Pat in a difficult financial position (7) (1783)
8.30 **Lakesiders** Performer girl Emma Bounie gets her break as a singer. Tommy, owner of Puffin Football Club attracts the attention of the mall's management over a possible sponsorship deal (7) (9008)
9.00 News (7) and weather (538)
9.30 **Men Behaving Badly: Jealousy** A holiday in a small caravan cramps the two couples' style (7) (32534)
10.00 **Heartbeat** Harry and Duggie show their true colours when two models book into the hotel (7) (87973)
10.30 **The Temptation Game** with Angus Deayton: The Resisters: High-minded individuals who rise above temptation (7) (83391)
11.00 **Not a Lot of People Know That Game** show, hosted by Bob Mills (7) (5553)
11.30 **Hot (7)** (83331)
12.00 **International Cricket: Fourth Test—England v South Africa** Highlights of the final day (2064393)
12.45am **Grand Slam** (1988) Comedy thriller charting the exploits of a convicted killer (Juan Fernandez) who jumps bail to recover a stash of stolen loot. Directed by Bill L. Norton (52428)
2.15 **Weather** (9999935)
2.30 **BBC News** 24

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For further listings see Saturday's Vision SKY 1

- 6.00am **Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters** from Beverly Hills (48329) 8.30 **Street Sharks** (5553) 9.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (5553) 9.30 **The Simpsons** (1030) 10.00 **Games World** (714350) 10.15 **Comic Relief** (5553) 10.30 **Star Trek: Voyager** (5553) 10.45 **The Simpsons** (1030) 11.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (5553) 11.15 **The Simpsons** (1030) 11.30 **Star Trek: Voyager** (5553) 11.45 **The Simpsons** (1030) 12.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (5553) 12.15 **The Simpsons** (1030) 12.30 **Star Trek: Voyager** (5553) 12.45 **The Simpsons** (1030) 1.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (5553) 1.15 **The Simpsons** (1030) 1.30 **Star Trek: Voyager** (5553) 1.45 **The Simpsons** (1030) 2.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (5553) 2.15 **The Simpsons** (1030) 2.30 **Star Trek: Voyager** (5553) 2.45 **The Simpsons** (1030) 3.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (5553) 3.15 **The Simpsons** (1030) 3.30 **Star Trek: Voyager** (5553) 3.45 **The Simpsons** (1030) 4.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (5553) 4.15 **The Simpsons** 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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY JULY 27 1998

Revenue swamped by appeals over self-assessment fines

By RICHARD MITES

THE Inland Revenue has been inundated with appeals against the £100 fines that it imposes for the late filing of tax returns under the self-assessment system.

Some 168,000 taxpayers have lodged appeals with the Revenue, many on the advice of accountants who believe the authorities will show greater leniency in the first year.

This represents more than a

quarter of the 670,000 people fined by the Revenue since the self-assessment system was introduced for between eight million and nine million taxpayers in January 1997.

Civil service unions fear that the flood of appeals — which may cost more to handle than the penalty sum of £100 — will put further pressure on Revenue staff, who are already struggling with a backlog of work from other activities.

In the first instance, the appeals are being handled by local inspec-

tors, but if taxpayers contest the first decision, their case can then be referred to the General Commissioners for income tax, who act as neutral arbiters in such complaints.

A spokeswoman for the Revenue said the department would attempt to deal with the appeals as quickly as possible, adding that each case had to be assessed on its own merits. This could take as little as a couple of weeks, but any complaint that goes to the Commissioners

would require the attendance of the taxpayer at an interview.

The Public and Commercial Services (PCS) union, which represents Inland Revenue employees, believes the mass of appeals will impose an intolerable burden on staff who face job cuts and a batch of processing work held over from the previous tax year. Over the next two years, 3,000 jobs will be cut in the processing department.

A spokesman for the Revenue section of the PCS said the union

had expressed its concerns to the department and would be seeking a review of staffing levels. "The first 1,500 job cuts are being taken this first year. Through the 'spend to save' rules, this will be offset by 1,200 new jobs, although this is in investigations. Processing will still be down."

The Institute of Chartered Accountants has also raised its concerns. It said: "The issue of so many penalty notices to taxpayers whose returns had been filed by the

January 31 deadline can only be because of the Revenue's failure to check the returns submitted."

Grounds for appealing against the £100 penalty vary widely. The Revenue's definition of reasonable excuses includes the loss of tax records, destruction of documents because of a house fire, serious illness for a prolonged period and even bereavement of a close relative.

Most complaints, however, are likely to centre on the vagaries of

the postal service and the Revenue's own bureaucracy. Taxpayers who can prove that their forms were lost in the post may have their fines waived, but non-receipt of the form is unacceptable unless the circumstances are exceptional. The Revenue insists the onus is on the individual to obtain the standard tax return form.

The next deadline for taxpayers is July 31, when the second payment for the last tax year falls due.

BT shares set to soar on AT&T venture

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHARES in British Telecom are expected to move sharply higher today after the company revealed details of a \$10 billion (£6 billion) joint venture with AT&T of the US that will significantly boost its earnings in the first year.

The news could add £3 billion to the market value of BT. Analysts expect shares in the utility to open as much as 40p to 50p ahead of their 825p Friday close when trading starts today.

BT had been struggling to build a credible international strategy after the collapse of its proposed merger with MCI, another US telecoms company. The latter deal began to fall apart after MCI disclosed unexpected setbacks in its plans for a local network, WorldCom then made a higher offer for MCI.

BT said its earnings would rise by 2p, or 6 per cent, in 2000, the first full year of the joint venture's operation, and by a further 1p a year for the following two years. AT&T said its earnings per share will be improved by 5 cents to 10 cents in the first year.

Mark Lambert, telecoms analyst at Merrill Lynch, believes the deal will be welcomed by the market. He said: "BT has resolved key strategic chal-

lenges in an earnings enhancing way. This is a good solution to many of the strategic challenges that it was facing."

The venture will offer telecoms services to multinational companies, pooling BT and AT&T's transnational businesses, including their international networks, traffic and products for business customers. The initial focus will be on financial, information technology and oil companies.

BT and AT&T face a daunting series of hurdles before the venture gets off the ground. They gave themselves 12 months before they expect to see it launched. The unnamed new company will need regulatory approval from Ofcom, the EU and the Department of Justice and Federal Communications Commission in the US.

Analysts said that problems could emerge as the two sets of management begin to work together. Other complications could appear as AT&T pulls out of other arrangements. However, AT&T said that escape clauses existed in its European and Asian partnerships, Unisource and World Partners, which should make it relatively straightforward.

Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive of BT, said he was aware of the pitfalls. "Joint

ventures are complex, but that does not mean to say they do not work. We have been careful about how we structure it so that we will have a realistic chance of success."

Under the agreement, both companies will be able to make independent investments in individual countries, although BT ruled out investing in the US domestic market and AT&T is seen as likely to pull back from making large investments in Europe.

The two companies will develop an internet protocol-based global network that should be up and running in three years and support services such as global electronic commerce. They are also investing \$500,000 each in US high-technology businesses.

Sir Peter said that a share buyback would not necessarily follow the receipt of \$7 billion that MCI is due to pay to BT after the collapse of their deal.

AT&T will replace MCI as BT's partner in the US in the distribution of the Concert range of business telecoms services.

The companies said that the joint venture's sales, which equal more than \$8 billion, will reach \$10 billion in 2000. Capital expenditure within the new business, which will have a separate board, will be about \$1 billion a year.

Rio sale, page 43



Joining forces: BT's Sir Peter Bonfield, right, and John Ziegler, AT&T president, announcing their joint venture yesterday

Midshires sale price under fire

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE imminent sale of Birmingham Midshires to Halifax for £780 million is already sparking protests as campaigners for mutualism claim that the building society is being sold at a £200 million discount.

Halifax and Midshires are believed to be close to finalising the deal, with speculation that more details will be given on Thursday when Halifax unveils interim results. Birmingham Midshires

claimed last night it had not drawn up a final agreement "with any third party". Analysts said Halifax's offer now looked "generous" after the recent fall in banking stocks. But mutualism campaigners who vehemently opposed attempts to force Nationwide to convert to a bank claimed Birmingham Midshires members should hold out for a higher offer.

The Save our Building Societies Campaign (Sobs), which

is backed by Vincent Cable, Liberal Democrat MP for Twickenham, said yesterday: "Mortgage customers at Birmingham Midshires will not be better off if this deal goes through. They may receive a windfall payment, but will pay higher interest rates on their mortgages because the Halifax is a bank that has to make profits for shareholders. Members must realise that their society is worth at least £1 billion and should not

be sold on the cheap." A spokesman for Birmingham Midshires said: "They are entitled to their opinion but they are not merchant bankers."

The Halifax said: "Our offer is fair and full value."

The Royal Bank of Scotland bid £630 million for Birmingham Midshires last year, but any deal eventually fell through as directors of Birmingham Midshires held out for a higher bid.

Do It All could go north to Focus

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BOOTS is in talks with the privately owned Focus do-it-yourself retail group about selling its Do It All chain of DIY shops.

Focus, based in Crewe, bought ten branches of Do It All from Boots in 1993 and is now believed to be negotiating to buy the remaining 134 stores. Any deal is unlikely to be settled this month.

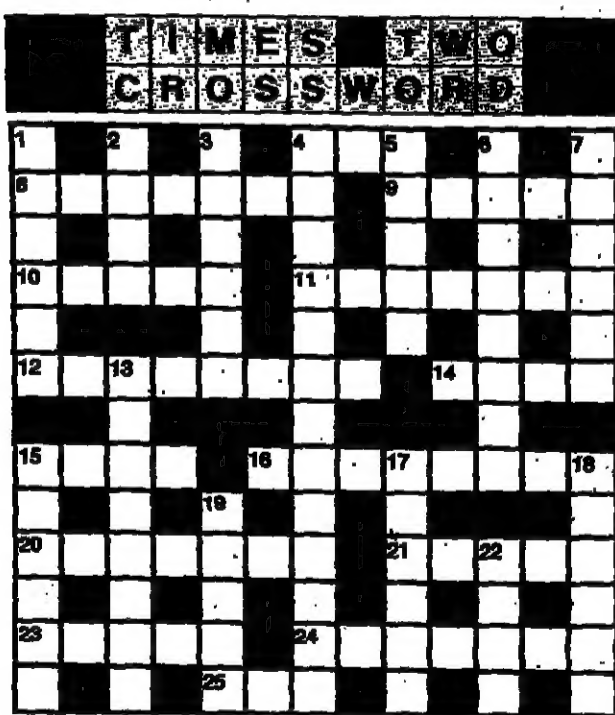
Focus, which has 71 branches and promotes itself as a discount operator, is concentrated in the north of England. It was set up in 1987 by Bill Archer, its current managing director, and Greg Stanley, chairman. It is majority owned by its management, with Duke Street Capital, the venture capitalists, holding the balance. Focus recently considered but abandoned plans for a flotation.

Alchemy, the venture capitalist that bought the Fads and Homestyle DIY businesses from Boots for £1 last year, is also thought to be interested in Do It All.

Boots acquired full ownership of Do It All two years ago when WH Smith paid it £50 million to take control of its 50 per cent share. The company was formed when Boots put together its Payless DIY business with WH Smith's Do It All in 1990.

Since Boots took full control it has closed a number of branches and has made no secret of its willingness to sell. The company declined to comment yesterday.

After successive years of losses the business made an operating profit of £2.5 million last year on sales of £37.2 million.



No 1468

- ACROSS
- Plant's pouch-like cavity (3)
 - Increase, add to (7)
 - (Games, show) ring (5)
 - Ventilated (5)
 - Frame with V-shaped legs (7)
 - Moon-loving shepherd. Keats' subject (8)
 - A service, quantity (4)
 - Wholesale slaughter (8)
 - 1/640th square mile (4)
 - Impurity remover (8)
 - (Special) clothing (7)
 - Lhasa its capital (5)
 - Put ball in play: do spell of duty (5)
 - French, Italian Med coast (7)
- DOWN
- Add (up): child (5)
 - Cope: son (6)
 - Seaweed product (4)
 - Not often (6)
 - Technologically advanced (5-2-3-3)
 - Small role, relief carving (5)
 - Hold back (8)
 - Stands for canvases (6)
 - Laughably inadequate (8)
 - The right to see, get to (6)
 - Busy, functioning (6)
 - Form of ceremony (6)
 - Soft: not 17 (5)
 - Some meat: a complaint (4)
- SOLUTION TO NO 1467
- ACROSS: 1 Ignoramus 6 Fob 8 Cagoule 9 Renal 10 Butt 11 Ultimate 13 Sealed 14 Corner 17 Buckshee 18 Orbit 20 Nymph 21 Dialect 22 Hen 23 Billy Budd
- DOWN: 1 Incubus 2 Nightwatchman 3 Route 4 Meekly 5 Survivor 6 Fontainebleau 7 Belle 12 Memsahib 15 Rotated 16 Fendal 17 Bunch 19 Many

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